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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

JANUARY 1, 1978

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CHURCH

Hopeless and outcast once we lay,
Worthy thy hate and scorn;
But love like thine could find a way
To rescue and adorn.

Dear Savior, from thy bleeding veins
A living fountain flows,
To wash thy bride from all her stains,
And soothe her deepest woes.

Cleansed from her sins, renewed by grace,
Thy royal throne above,
Dear Savior, is her destined place —
Her sweet abode thy love.

Thine eye, in that unclouded day,
Shall, with supreme delight,
Thy fair and glorious bride survey,
Unblemished in thy sight.

— Selected

ORGANIZATIONS

There are many organizations in the world about us. Men have organized themselves into various clubs, lodges, associations and unions. Some of these organizations have commendable purposes while others do not.

What the Christian's attitude concerning this multitude of organizations? We are badgered to join many of these groups and in some instances almost required to. Can we, may we, join these organizations in good conscience?

Many groups are organized for entertainment. They devote themselves to games, sports or hobbies. Often their facilities are very elaborate. Membership is often limited to those who can afford these exclusive surroundings and have attained a certain level of ability in the type of entertainment or sport featured. These organizations are devoted to having a good time.

Other groups are conducted in secret. Their rituals and oaths are shrouded in secrecy, with dire warnings attached to the revelation of these secrets. These groups also emphasize having many social activities. While there may be a mention made of the Scriptures and of God in their rituals when their social activities, oaths and secrecy are considered they are found to be far short of Scriptural standards.

The interest in the policies, programs and personalities of the government have caused many to band together into political organizations. These are not only the political parties but also the various committees organized in support of or in opposition to various political and social issues. These groups are interested in

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carrying the day for their cause whether right or wrong.

Another organization is the labor union. Their use of force (strikes) has become commonplace to gain financial ends. The justice supposedly sought by these groups is destroyed by the methods used to gain it. A rebellious spirit is often fostered among employees while Christians are instructed to be meek and obedient, even to ill-mannered employers. Also we are to receive all things with thanksgiving not with murmuring or with further demands.

These varied organizations do not provide a safe place for the Christian. He is forbidden to swear an oath, so he can not be a part of the secret societies. His goal is for something higher than a good time. The Christian holds his citizenship in a far better Kingdom, therefore he can not take part in the political affairs of this realm. As a non-register, he can not have a part in a group that uses force and intimidation, any more than he could join the armed forces. It is quite clear that the Christian can not have a part in these types of organizations.

There are other organizations where the danger may not seem so obvious. There are many benevolent groups which often appeal for our help and membership. The temptation is great to become a part of these groups for they seem so harmless and they seem to be doing a good work. Often these groups have a religious facade which make them even more tempting.

The cause of temperance is a noble work. Organizations have been formed to work for temperance. Christians can hardly work against such a group but can they be a part of it? The principle given in the New Testament is that Christians are not to be unequally yoked with the world. Many who work hard in the temperance movement, while earnest in their temperance beliefs, are badly out of order in much of their lives. With bobbed hair, jewelry, immodest attire and a reliance upon the political system, they do not fit the New Testament ideal of a Christian.

There is one and only one organization for the Christian to belong to. That is the Church. Although it has a government, officials and officers, the Church is more than an earthly organization. It is the Body and Bride of Christ. The Christian must not taint that Body with membership in the world's organizations that can only depend upon worldly power. The Church is the only organization which is given to man for his soul's salvation. That is the dearest thing than man can gain during his time in this world. All other benefits pale beside the glory of this prize. The organizations of this world can only work for temporal things. Why should the Christian give his time, talents and fortune to those

groups which are unable to help him gain Heaven and oft times are hinderances to the work of the Church.

When you are solicited to join in these various worldly organizations, what will your answer be?

NEW YEAR'S EVE: TOO LATE?

When the new year begins, will you be ready for it? Will you have everything done that you should have done in 1977? If you haven't, it will be too late to finish up what you've neglected. But it's not too late to put old desires, unkind thoughts and selfish ways behind you and start the new year right — with Jesus as Lord of your life.

There are things you know, you should have done in 1977; did you do them or let them slide? If the Spirit directed you to witness to someone, or to reach down and help someone out of the gutter of sin, and you didn't, now it's too late. When the opportunity has passed, you can't go back and retrieve it, anymore than you can turn time back and relive 1977. If someone's soul is lost because you didn't do what you should have, does it matter to you that now it's too late?

"Then Agrippa said to Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Acts 26:28. Agrippa apparently believed, but he didn't want to give up what he had in order to do what the Lord wanted. Acts 24:25 tells how Felix trembled, but he put off any further response until a "convenient season." "Almost" or waiting for a "convenient season" will not save your soul or anyone else's. Good intentions are no consolation when you discover you've waited too long, that now, it's too late.

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. The time to be saved is now, not tomorrow. Putting salvation off may mean you'll never have another chance. With some choices in life, you have a second chance, but don't count on God to wait on you to be saved. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." II Cor. 6:2b. With 1977 behind you, you are one year closer to eternity. Put your soul's need first and decide to serve Christ now. Don't wait, lest you decide too late.

"And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father." Luke 9:59. This is like saying, "Lord, I'll follow you, but first, let me do these other things. I'll do your will tomorrow." Or, "Lord, I'll follow you wherever You go as long as I can have a comfortable life. Please, Lord, just give me a little more time to live like I want to." No matter how important you think something is in your life, if the Lord directs otherwise, follow

Him. If you don't, you may not get another chance to do as He asks.

"Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?" Matt. 25:44. Jesus said if they hadn't done it for the least, they hadn't done it unto Him. Either they weren't very observant, and didn't see the needs, or if they did see them, they didn't consider the people important enough to bother with. It hurts a little, doesn't it, to stoop and help someone who has gone to the depths of sin? Yes, it does hurt, until Jesus takes pride out and puts love in your heart instead. Then you will help whoever you can, now.

"Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." Prov. 21:13. How would you feel if you needed help, and when you cried out, you were ignored? If you see a need, do what you can about it before it's too late. Then you will be eligible for help if you need it, and you will have the assurance that you have pleased God. Putting things off, and letting things slide "because you're too busy" can be sin. It pays to do what you know you should do, now!

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. When the Lord opens a door of opportunity before you and shows you what to do, go ahead and do it. Don't wait to see if, maybe, you have not understood, or, maybe, you can get out of doing what the Lord wants. Don't follow your friends' advice, when you know the Spirit is leading you in a different direction; they don't always know God's will for you. Don't wait for a convenient season, for there won't be any. Do as the Lord bids you, now, before it's too late.

"Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy." Prov. 6:15. A person who refuses to do God's will may suddenly find himself at death's door. It is too late then to go back and right the wrongs he has done. It is too late to go back and do the work he left undone, so he could please himself. Without Jesus, death is a calamity without a remedy. With Jesus, death is a stepping-stone to Heaven. As you see 1977 end and 1978 begin, consider your need of Jesus. If you accept Him now and continue in His service, it won't matter what comes to you or when. With Jesus, you will be ready; you won't hear, "It's too late!"

Sister Eileen Broadwater
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THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

A HUSBAND FOR RUTH

RUTH 3 and 4

Ruth's husband died in the land of Moab. Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem. Ruth worked in the field for Boaz, who was very rich and also a good man. He was a relative of Naomi. According to the custom of that time, when the husband of a young woman died, then the nearest man relative was to take her as his wife. Ruth talked with Boaz and said that Naomi had informed her that Boaz was a near kinsman or relative. Boaz wasn't married but he told her that there was another man who was a closer relative than he. If this man refused to take her, Boaz promised Ruth that he would marry her himself. Boaz gave Ruth six measures of barley which she took home to Naomi. Naomi said, "Sit still, my daughter, till you know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day."

This is what happened: Boaz went to the gate of the city and sat down. Soon the man who was the nearest relative of Ruth's former husband came along. Boaz called for him to stop and sit with him. Then he took ten men of the elders of the city and said for them to sit down with them. Boaz said, "Naomi that has come back from Moab, wishes to sell a parcel of land that belonged to her husband, Elimelech." Then Boaz said to the near relative of Naomi, "If you wish to buy — buy it, but if not I am next in line and I will redeem it." And the man said, "I will redeem it." Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field of Naomi, you must take Ruth, the Moabitess, whose husband is dead." And the man said, "I can't do that. I already have a wife. You are a single man — you have my permission to redeem it yourself, for I cannot."

It was the law of Israel when the next in line refused to marry a young widow that she would pull the shoe off of the man and spit in his face. But this time the man just took off his shoe and gave it to Boaz, showing to the ones present that he gave Boaz the right to buy the field and, of course, marry Ruth along with it.

Boaz married Ruth. She had a son called Obed, who became the father of Jesse, who was the father of David, the king.

Ruth was faithful to the Lord God of Israel and He blessed her to become the great-grandmother of David, who was an ancestor of our Lord Jesus. If you are faithful to Jesus, God will bless you too.

Brother Rudy Cover

AGAINST THE WIND

"But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves; for the wind was contrary." Matt. 14:24.

The disciples were having a hard time of it. Jesus had sent them on ahead of Him, after He had fed the multitude with the five loaves and two fishes. After He had sent the multitude away, Jesus had gone into the mountain to pray.

He knew the disciples were struggling in the storm. He came walking to them on the water. "Be of good cheer; It is I; Be not afraid." Peter wanted to walk on the water and Jesus said, "Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased." Matt. 14:29-32.

Another time there arose a storm of wind and the waves beat into the ship and it was full of water. Jesus was asleep in the hinder part of the ship and the disciples woke Him, saying, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Jesus arose and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, "Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." Mark 4:37-39.

Do the storms of life bear down on you? Have you cried out to the Lord? Jesus is always ready to calm the troubled waters. He said, "...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

But sometimes we are not in the will of God. Sometimes, like Jonah we are going the opposite direction from what God wants. Jonah 1:4, "But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken."

It never pays to go against the will of God. We must will to do His will. Do not buck the winds of adversity. Let go and let God control your life. You have POWER-steering when you go with God. With Jesus in control, the wind ceases to be contrary to us and our sea becomes a great calm.

"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.... He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet: so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful

works to the children of men!" Psalms 107:23-25, 29-31.

He who thinketh that he standeth,
Let him think it o'er again;
Lest, perhaps, a sudden tempest
May his foothold on him gain.

He who is in Christ well rooted,
And whose faith is firm and sound,
Will but anchor safe and surer,
When the raging storms abound.

Sister Edyth Kline
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THE RUT OF SIN

I would like to give you a few notes and thoughts from a sermon by Bro. Jack Snyder.

Anyone who has traveled on dirt roads after a period of rainy weather or in the spring after the frost has left the ground, knows what happens to the roads and how hard it is to travel them because of the ruts.

Ruts are always in the low places. Sometimes you are going down when you think you are going up. Higher education can be an example. You think you are gaining knowledge but it may lead you away from God's commands. A rut is small to start with but use makes it deeper and deeper until it is easy to get stuck in it.

The story is told of the man who was chosen to portray Christ in the painting of the "Last Supper." He was chosen by the painter because of his upright life which was portrayed in his face. Later, the same painter was looking for someone to portray Judas. He finally found a man whose face showed he had gone to the depths of sin. Imagine the painter's surprise when he found him to be the same man he had used to portray Jesus. The man had gotten into the rut of sin and couldn't get out. God alone can keep you from getting stuck in the rut of sin.

If you follow a car too closely on a road full of ruts you will get in the same rut it does. Choose companions that will keep you out of the rut of sin. Choose those who will lead you closer to God rather than those who will make light of the true Christian life.

The car that gets stuck in a rut can only sit and spin its wheels. This throws mud on anyone close behind but not in the rut. Don't be too hasty to wipe the mud off. It will come off easier when it dries. "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, ...and say all

manner of evil against you falsely..." Always be willing to help someone out of a rut, but don't get into the same rut.

Pharaoh was in sin's rut ten times. Each time he refused to let the children of Israel go. After a plague was removed he got deeper in the rut.

Samson was in a rut. Each time he went back to Deliah he got in deeper. Why did he go back? Satan can make sin look very enticing.

Immorality is making a very deep rut in our beloved United States, which was founded for the purpose of worshiping God. Let us beware, "As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

The highway of holiness has no ruts. Let's choose that road and stay on it. Bible reading, prayer and obedience to God's commands will keep us out of the ruts. It is easy to put sin on top of sin if we neglect God's Word and His commands.

Let's make a New Year's resolution that we will not let a day pass without talking to God and letting Him speak to us through His Word.

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OUR CONTINUED NEED OF CHRIST

by ELDER JAMES QUINTER

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Col. 2:6-7.

The apostle opens this chapter with this expressive and peculiar language: "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for then at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh." What great conflict does Paul refer to? It was a conflict of mind and a distress of feelings. From what source did it arise? It was because he was afraid that the brethren to whom he referred, might not continue faithful in the good work which they had commenced. The same feeling causes trouble and concern on the part of many ministers and servants of God. We have an interest in the spiritual welfare of our fellowmen. We are trying to bring all those, over whom we can exert an influence, to Christ. Our first concern is to get them converted, reformed, and made ready for a better world—to get them to abandon their errors and receive the truth, to quit the work of sin, and engage in the service

of God. Is the mind of the preacher relieved of all anxiety and care when the sinner is converted? Ah! there is concern still! From the fact that we are in a world of temptation, in a world of pride, in a world of error, in a world where the Prince of darkness holds sway—there must be concern. We are sorry to be compelled to acknowledge it, but it is true, that this is a world in which error and darkness have control, rather than heavenly truth and heavenly principle. Such is the fact and we can never lose our feeling of concern for our friends as long as they remain in the world. When their course of life is finished and we bear them to the grave, although we feel great sorrow and our hearts are sad, yet if we can believe that they died in Christ, our concern is over, and we are relieved. We know that they have gone to a world where there will be no temptation. The preacher feels for his people while they are in this world. The Christian father cares and watches over his children to protect them from temptation. We feel for one another. That was Paul's conflict. That is the conflict of all preachers. I might say to you, "I would that ye knew the great conflict I have for you. I would that ye knew the trouble and anxiety which I have lest ye do wrong and wander away from Christ in ways of wickedness. Such was Paul's concern; and with such feeling he used the words of my text, "As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him!" They have received Christ, and he was anxious that they should continue to walk in him. This confirms what I have just stated in regard to our concern.

I will present what I have to say under two leading thoughts and make the application as best I can. The thoughts are these — First, Our need of Christ. And, secondly, The continuation of that need.

First, Our need of Christ. Our text says, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord." This would imply that these brethren at Colosse had received Jesus Christ. They received him because they knew they had need of him. They received him because they knew that they could not be saved in any other way. From these remarks I make the observation that we all have need of Christ. Religion is not the development and growth of some innate and natural principle within us. The smallest child in the room, the little babe in the mother's arms, has within it the elements of manhood or womanhood. It is true, that it may need nourishment to develop the man or woman, but it has the elements within it. But, we want some additional element which we have not to enable us to form the true Christian character. None of us who are Christians had all the elements of Christianity within us before we became Christians.

I say to the unconverted man and woman, you do not have all the

elements of a Christian character within. No matter from what family you may have sprung, no matter what your natural temperament may have been, no matter what may have been your surroundings, no matter how pure your life has been from wicked desires, no matter how excellent your moral character, to form a genuine Christian character there must be an additional element. You must have Christ in you before such a character can be found. The Christian character consists in two things: First, in removal of sin, and secondly, the presence of a divine principle within us. The removal of the wrong is necessary. I am afraid that right here we are apt to fall into the error of giving our Christianity a negative character only. Many are too apt to look at it only as the absence of evil. I want to disabuse your minds of that error. I tell you, my Christian friends, and brethren, that Christianity does not consist alone in a negative character, that is, in an absence of wrong. There is a positive side to Christianity as well as a negative one. While it is our duty and a part of the Christian life to abstain from even "the appearance of evil," while it is our duty to deny ourselves of all "ungodliness and worldly lusts," it is no less our duty to "live soberly, righteously and godly." We must not only "cease to do evil," but we must also "learn to do well."

These Colossian brethren had received Christ, as many of us have done. Jesus is the Saviour that we need. He pardons our sins, takes away the wrongs that we have done. However numerous these wrongs have been, however heinous in their character, he takes them all away. Our lives are made free from guilt, and we enjoy the happiness of the Christian. This is the condition of the heart that has been washed in the blood of Jesus. The heart is now clean, pure and white. The heart now becomes the tablet upon which the divine commandments are written according to the language of Solomon: "Keep my commandments and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart." Prov. 7:2-3. We are living under the circumstances alluded to by the Apostle Paul, when he says, referring to what God will do for his people, "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." Heb. 8:10. The carrying out of these laws constitute the positive character of the Christian. Our hearts which were once evil, are emptied of evil and filled up with what is good. Our members which were servants of unrighteousness and wickedness, now become servants of holiness. We leave the service of Satan and enter the service of God. We are dedicated and consecrated to God.

I come now to the next point that is implied in the language of

the text: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Paul here uses three metaphors. I have already spoken of the anxiety which he felt for his brethren. He therefore uses figure after figure to impress his meaning more firmly upon their minds. He uses metaphors here to present the life of the Christian after Christ has been received into the heart.

First, walk is used, "walk in him." Second, the figure of growth is used, "rooted in him." Third, the figure of a building is used, "built up in him." The meaning of these figures is plain. From the first we learn there must be action and progress, for such "walk" implies. The second indicates life and growth. The third implies stability. Various principles enter into and form the Christian life.

We receive Christ. He bears our sins away. We then become as little children. The work that we are now to do is to form a Christian character. This is to be the work after we have received Christ, received him in the pardon of our sins, received him in the incipient stages of the work to be done. We are then to walk in him, grow in him, build in him.

These truths lead us to the next thought, that we are to continue in Christ. It is not enough that the sinner seeks him, and then feels because his sins are forgiven that Christ is not needed any more.

This meaning of the text is that we are never done with Christ. We must walk in him, be rooted and built up in him. The roots or fibers of our life must sink deep into Christ. These fibers are to multiply and become stronger; the branches are to spread out and bear fruit abundantly to the glory and honor of God. The tree consists of two parts, the part below, and the part above ground. So one part of our Christian character must bring the nourishment from Christ, and the other show the fruits to the world. Lay the foundation of this noble structure which we are building, deep in Christ. Let it go on to maturity. "Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity." II Peter 1:5-7.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." Do not wander out of the way. If you walk in him there is no danger. Do not feel, however, that because you have received him, you do not need him any more. Do not feel because you have your name registered among the members of some Christian church, that you are safe. "As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him."

I have been nearly half a century in the services of God. But I feel that I need Christ quite as much now as I did when I entered into the holy covenant with him. We can never do without him. Let our circumstances be what they may, let our locations be where they may, yet we must have the support of Christ. While our circumstances here in Huntingdon may not be the best in the world, yet we think that they are favorable. But do not, my brother and sister, allow the thought to enter your minds, that because you are thus surrounded by Christian associations and companions, that you do not need the help of the Saviour. Although you have friends around you to help you, and brethren to pray for you, yet you need Christ. As you have received Christ in holy baptism when you entered into the holy life, so walk in him. Whether you are here in Huntingdon, or anywhere else, you must have Christ. Remember that you must seek him daily. Avail yourselves of the means of grace which he has provided. As you have need of Christ, so walk in him. This walking in Christ refers to action and conduct. Walking in Christ means walking after Christ's example, walking as Christ walked, walking in sympathy with Christ. Walking in Christ implies an identification with Christ's ends, principles and purposes. It means walking in the path which he has marked out for us. "And whosoever doth not take up his cross, and come after me, can not be my disciple." Luke 14:27. Then we are to walk in Christ, bearing the cross.

"Rooted in Christ." What does that mean? It means planted in Christ. Paul, in the sixth chapter of his Epistle to the Romans, says: "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection." Paul is alluding to the subject of baptism, and speaks about being buried with Christ, and then makes use of the expression quoted. This has reference to Christians who have received Christ. That is the planting. We are regarded as trees having our roots in Christ, or as branches grafted into Christ. This passage stands in close connection with another which I will quote: "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Rom. 6:3. What does this mean, "baptized into his death?" I understand that by being baptized into his death, into the merits of that death. I quote a similar passage that is a little more expressive in its meaning: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3:27. The passage in Romans says, "into his death." We may regard the other as explaining this, making it mean into Christ. I think that the meaning of the two passages is this: Paul is talking about planting. In our profession of Christianity, we become planted in Christ. Baptism in

connection with repentance and faith, brings us into Christ. We are then planted in him, or rooted in him. The plant is tender and must be protected and nourished. Spring is now coming, when we transplant trees and shrubbery. Some of the plants may have very small fibers; many of these may be injured in transplanting, but as long as there is life, the plant may grow if planted in good soil. The fibers will draw nourishment from the earth. It will become larger and larger; its branches will become more and more fruitful. So we are planted in Christ. The soil is not wanting in fertility. Our spiritual soil is rich and will sustain us if we but send our roots abroad. You can not grow unless you are planted in that soil. Take the most excellent plant that you can find in our nurseries, plant it upon some of these pine ridges. Will it bring forth fruit? No; it must be planted in soil that will develop it. So it is with human nature. It will never bring forth any good fruit until it is planted in Christ. If it is planted there, it will bring forth godly manhood and womanhood.

In order to become good, you must receive Christ. You can not become good in any other way. "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. I urge you to receive him. He will be your helper and your Saviour. No matter how far you have wandered away from him, he will lead you back.

In the second place, let us all be careful to walk in Christ. It should be a joy to us to know that we can walk in him. While we are walking in him, we are walking safely. Christian brother and sister, we have received Christ, are we walking in him? So the apostle in our text adminishes us to do.

Selected from Quinter's Life and Sermons



The devil runs a bargain counter, but don't forget that some of the so-called cheap things are very dear in the end.



Everything the moralist has to his credit, he stole from Christianity and failed to give God credit for it.

MARRIAGE

MEYERS - ST. JOHN

Sister Donna Meyers, daughter of Brother and Sister Martin Meyers of Adel, Iowa, and Brother Dennis St. John, son of Brother and Sister Clifford St. John of Stryker, Ohio, were united in marriage on August 20, 1977.

Elder Joseph Flora performed the ceremony at the Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church.

Dennis and Donna are residing at R.R. 1, Stryker, Ohio 43557.

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation enjoyed another revival in August, with Bro. Jack Snyder as our evangelist. The messages were enjoyed very much by all. We were happy Sis. Snyder and two children could be here with us too.

The following week one precious soul was baptized and received into our fold. Everyone rejoiced in this.

May Bro. Snyder go on in the work of the Lord, proclaiming God's wonderful Word.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The revival meeting at Walnut Grove Congregation held in September by Elder Harley Flory was an inspiration to all. His messages were centered around the Words of Christ. We were glad his wife could accompany him and wish them many more rewarding years in God's service. We had visitors from other congregations from the states of Kansas, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, as well as surrounding congregations. We appreciate each one who attended and welcome them back anytime.

Elder Harley Flory officiated our Lovefeast which closed our meeting on October 2. We especially wish to thank all the Ministering Brethren for "Breaking the Bread of Life" during these services. Those who were with us that day are as follows: James Kegerreis, Joshua Rice, Frank Shaffer, Laverne Keeney, Carl Broadwater, Jacob Ness, and Eldon Mallow.

Sister Betty Shelly, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

JANUARY 15, 1978

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE

When, sin-stricken, burdened, and weary
From bondage I longed to be free,
There came to my heart the sweet message:
"My grace is sufficient for thee."

Though tempted and sadly discouraged,
My soul to this refuge will flee,
And rest in the blessed assurance:
"My grace is sufficient for thee."

My bark may be tossed by the tempest
That sweeps o'er the turbulent sea—
A rainbow illumines the darkness;
"My grace is sufficient for thee."

O Lord, I would press on with courage,
Though rugged the pathway may be,
Sustained and upheld by the promise:
"My grace is sufficient for thee."

Soon, soon will the warfare be over,
My Lord face to face I shall see,
And prove, as I dwell in His presence:
"His grace was sufficient for thee."

Author unknown

Selected by Brother W. E. Bashor

DEATH

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? I Cor. 15:58.

God is eternal. The concept of an eternity is far beyond the human mind. We are used to time. We are used to everything having a beginning and an end. It is only by faith that we can at least accept the fact of God's eternity.

Because our minds are limited from grasping eternity we have endowed the beginning and the end of earthly life with special honors and fears. Birth is a marvelous event. It is a miracle fully controlled by God. There are many honors and congratulations extended at the time a child is born into the world. But the time of passing from this world has been surrounded with much fear and dread.

As birth marks a beginning, our earthly minds tell us that death must mark a permanent close to that life. As far as our earthly associations go that is true. When one is called from this life opportunities for meeting, talking with, loving or even disagreeing with him will end. It marks a permanent change in our relationships in this world. We feel our loss of those who have departed.

If this is such a drastic change, often accompanied with fear and with heart-felt sorrow, how can the Apostle Paul speak of death as lacking its supposed sting? Certainly the sorrows and fears that surround death have a sting as painful as sleet against the bare skin. What has happened to the sting? Is death permanent as our minds would lead us to believe? Certainly, Paul saw something that erased the sting and robbed the grave of its victory.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JANUARY 15, 1978

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Death is not final. There is something beyond that chasm that separates those beyond that experience from those still in this world. There is an unfathomable eternity beyond that change. While death looks to us like an end, it is but an entrance into that which will continue without end. That eternity will be spent by each person who has ever lived on this earth either in Heaven or in Hell.

Just as a birth is a happy occasion so is everlasting life. It is a life that is perfectly in tune with God. Just as death is surrounded with fear and regret so is an everlasting death. It is not only separation from God for ever but will be spent in the everlasting, fiery punishment prepared for Satan and his angels.

Eternity infuses this natural life with a value that is hard to overestimate. The few years of this life are very important for they offer the only opportunity to prepare the soul for its eternal destiny. The choices made will lead ultimately to Heaven or to Hell. When a life-time has been wasted in serving self, sin and Satan it is little wonder that fear and dismay surround the final break with this world. When a life has been lived in accord with God's decrees and directions the sting of death is overcome.

Paul saw the sting go out of death because he knew death had been conquered by Christ. When Jesus came forth from the garden tomb, He had proven that even death could not hold Him. His resurrection means we can be resurrected also. We can be born again in this life to become a new creature who lives by His power. Then when the time comes to part with the familiar scenes of this world we can look forward to a resurrection - a life beyond the grave.

The Christian may look forward to death as a blessing for he looks beyond the sadness of the parting to the glory to be revealed in the soon-to-be-realized eternity. The one who is outside Christ can hardly look forward to death with any great anticipation. No matter what his philosophy may have been, eternity will hold only multiplied, unrelenting horrors for him. It is often remarked when a person who has suffered greatly finally passes from this life that it is a blessing. But is it a blessing for an unbeliever to pass into eternity unprepared? No matter how great his suffering may have been in this life there will be an even worse suffering beyond that will last for ever and ever. Death can only be a blessing for the one who has prepared himself for that change by following God's Will.

God is not pleased that many are preparing to spend an eternity in Hell. He has paid a terrible price in the giving of His Son that none would have to go to such a place. He has done His part to keep you out of Hell. Have you done your part?

"IF YE HAVE OUGHT AGAINST ANY"

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11:24-26.

Prayer is a vital link to God. We gain spiritual strength through prayer; we make our requests to God by praying. When anything hinders our contact with God, we will suffer for it and so will others. We can't pray effectively when anything gets in the way. Being able to forgive others is one condition for successful prayer. If we can't forgive, we won't be forgiven. Unforgiven sin is like a wall between us and God which no prayer can penetrate.

Having "ought against any" refers to holding something in your heart against another. Having an ill feeling toward someone hinders your prayers. Whether the conflict is a personal one or you are upset over someone's disobedience of God's will, a proper attitude is necessary if you expect to please God. These "oughts" should be turned over to Jesus and you should love that person without reservation. Release them unto the Lord with the assurance that He can and will take care of these problems.

No matter how long the list of complaints you have against someone, you are powerless to correct even one of them. Only God can touch and mellow a rebellious heart and make a person pleasing unto Himself. Whenever a person pleases God, we ought to be pleased. We have no right to sit in judgment of someone just because his or her actions don't suit us. Make it your business to love, encourage, and to pray "not my will, but Thine be done." Then wait while the Lord works. If you trust Him, rather than harboring resentments, your will won't get in the Lord's way.

If you can't forgive, God won't forgive you. Then your unforgiven sin keeps you away from God and gets in the way of your prayers. Harboring ill will in your heart hurts you, as well as the other person. This is a negative emotion, along with jealousy, anger, unkindness, and so forth. It has been proven that these are bad for our physical health and we know they do not make us more healthy spiritually. On the contrary, love produces positive emotions which are good for us and everyone around us. It is healthy to love, to forgive and to pray unselfishly.

Have you prayed and received only silence from God as your answer? Do you feel like your prayers for someone aren't accomplishing anything? Maybe it's time to search your heart and

see how much you have against others. If you wrote out all the things you resented, including the things that you are sure do not please God, how long would your list be? After you take inventory of your heart-feelings, surrender all you "oughts against others" to Jesus when you pray. Then the Lord is free to move and do things His way.

Resentment in your heart brings out rebellion in others. Love and acceptance of people will help draw them to Jesus. Jesus will then show them how to please Him and you should be pleased at the difference Christ makes. Whenever you have something against someone, try looking at him or her as Jesus does. Concentrate on God's power and ability to transform, rather than on a person's failures. Use your contact with that person to bring out the best in him or her, instead of using your contact to express your disapproval. With love in your heart, you can do this.

Forgiving from the heart is one key to successful prayer. You are to make your requests to God through Christ for yourself and others, after you forgive. Any resentment or picking about the past or present actions keeps you from doing that. Your will for any person - what you believe he or she should do to be acceptable - stands in the Lord's way. If you will surrender all your complaints in prayer, you'll be glad you did when you see how the Lord moves.

It is so easy to be like the chickens who peck the one who is in trouble. The louder he squawks, the more they peck, sometimes causing the chicken to die. Instead of helping, they only increase the suffering. When people cry out for help, be merciful in spite of what they do and pray for Jesus to help them. After all, if you could pick away every fault and mistake and didn't lead them to Jesus, they still wouldn't please God.

Jesus has a lot of "oughts" against everyone of us, yet He loves us and will forgive us. There's no reason why He should love us or pray and intercede for us, but He does it anyhow. Rather than concentrating on our failures and the things He could hold against us, He takes our good points and uses them. People around you may not deserve your love and forgiveness, but don't withhold it. You don't deserve Christ's forgiveness either.

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 6:31. If you still need a reason to forgive, you have it in the Golden Rule. You want to be forgiven, so give up your "oughts against any," then pray!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

The Church and the World walked far apart
On the changing shore of time;
The World was singing a giddy song,
And the Church a hymn sublime.

"Come, give me your hand," cried the merry World,
"And walk with me this way,"
But the good Church hid her snowy hand,
And solemnly answered, "Nay,
I will not give you my hand at all,
And I will not walk with you;
Your way is the way of eternal death,
And your words are all untrue."

"Nay, walk with me but a little space,"
Said the World with a kindly air;
"The road I walk is a pleasant road,
And the sun shines always there;
Your way is narrow and thorny and rough,
While mine is flowery and smooth;
Your lot is sad with reproach and toil,
But in circles of joy I move.

"My way, you can see, is a broad, fair one,
And my gate is high and wide;
There is room enough for you and for me,
To travel side by side."

Half shyly the Church approached the World,
And gave him her hand of snow;
And the false World grasped it and walked along,
Saying in accents low:

"Your dress is too simple to please my taste,
I have gold and pearls to wear;
Rich velvets and silks for your graceful form,
And diamonds to deck your hair."

The Church looked down at the plain white robes,
And then at the dazzling World,
And blushed as she saw his handsome lip,
With a smile contemptuous curl

"I will change my dress for a costlier one,"
Said the Church with a smile of grace;
Then her pure white garments drifted away,

And the World gave in her place
Satins and silks and seal skins rare
And roses and gems and pearls;
And over her forehead fell her bright hair,
Crisped in a thousand curls.

"Your house is too plain," said the proud old World,
"I'll build you one like mine,
With Kitchen for feasting and Parlor for play,
And furniture never so fine.

So he built her a costly and beautiful house —
Splendid it was to behold;
Her sons and her daughters met frequently there,
Shining in purple and gold.

And Fair and Festival — frolics untold,
Were held in the place of prayer.
And maidens bewitching as sirens of old,
With worldly graces rare,
Invented the cunningest tricks,
Untrammelled by Gospel or Laws,
To beguile and amuse and win from the World,
Some help for the righteous cause.

The Angel of Mercy flew over the Church,
And whispered, "I know thy sin;"
Then the Church looked sad and anxiously longed
To gather the children in;
But some were off at the midnight Ball,
And some at the Euchre or Play;
And some were drinking in gay saloons,
As she quietly went her way.

Then the sly World gallantly said to her,
"Your children mean no harm,
Merely indulging in innocent sports;"
So she leaned on his proffered arm,
And smiled and chatted and gathered flowers,
As she walked along with the World;
While millions and millions of precious souls
To the horrible pit were hurled!

"Your Preachers are all too old and plain,"
Said the gay World, with a sneer;
"They frighten my children with dreadful tales,
Which I do not like them to hear.

"They talk of Judgment, a Coming Lord,
And the horrors of endless night;
They warn a place that should not be
Mentioned in ears polite!
I will send you some of a better stamp;
Modern and brilliant and fast;
Who will show how men may live as they list,
And go to Heaven at last.

The Father is merciful, great and good,
Loving and tender and kind;
Do you think he would take one child to Heaven
And leave another behind?

"Go train your teachers up to the times,
Adopt the stylish way;
We all want Entertainment fine,
And only that will pay.
So she called for pleasing and gay divines,
Gifted, and great and learned,
And the plain old men that preached the Cross
Were out of her pulpits turned.

Then Mammon came in and supported the Church
Renting a prominent pew;
And preaching and singing and floral display,
Proclaimed a period new.
You give too much to the poor," said the World,
"Far more than you ought to do;
Though the poor need shelter, food and clothes,
Why need it trouble you?

"And afar to the heathen in foreign lands,
Your thoughts need never roam;
The Father of Mercies will care for them,
Let Charity begin at home.

"Go take your money and buy rich robes,
And horses and carriages fine;
And pearls and jewels and dainty food,
And the rarest and costliest wine.

"My children they dote on all such things,
And if you their love would win,
You must do as they do and walk in the ways
That they are walking in."

Then the Church her purse-strings tightly held,
And gracefully lowered her head,
And simpered, "I've given too much away,
I will do so, sir, as you have said."
So the poor were turned from her door in scorn,
And she heard not the orphan's cry;
And she drew her beautiful robes aside
As the widows went weeping by.

Her Mission treasures beggarly pled,
And Jesus' commands were in vain;
While half of the millions for whom he died
Had never heard his name.

And they of the Church and they of the World,
Walked closely hand and heart,
And none but the Master, who knoweth all,
Could tell the two apart.

Then the Church sat down at her ease and said,
"I am rich and in goods increased;
I have need of nothing and nought to do,
But to laugh and dance and feast."

And the sly World heard her and laughed within,
And mockingly said aside,
The Church has fallen, the beautiful Church,
And her shame is her boast and pride."

Thus her witnessing power, alas! was lost,
And the perilous times came in;
The times of the end, so often foretold,
Of form and pleasure and sin.

Then the angel drew near the mercy-seat,
And whispered in sighs her name;
And the saints their anthems of rapture hushed
And covered their heads with shame.

And a voice came down from the hush of heaven,
From Him that sat on the throne;
"I know thy works and what thou hast said,
And how thou hast not known,
That thou art poor, and naked, and blind.
With pride and ruin enthralled,
The expectant Bride of a Heavenly Groom,
Now the harlot of the world!

"Thou hast ceased to watch for that Blessed Hope,
And hast fallen from zeal and grace;
So now, alas! I must cast thee out,
And blot thy name from its place."

Selected by Sister Ruth Drake

THE MIRACLE OF GOD

Sometimes trouble seems to get me down.
There's nothing good or cheerful anywhere
And I'm really low.
Then I look up and see the sunshine
Shining from behind a cloud —
I think of God's promises
And things seem so much better.

This seems to be the way it is —
That behind every dark, heavy cloud there is the sunshine
And behind all of the heavy, troubling problems
Is the promise of God's love.

Sister Brenda Andrews
R. 2, Raymore, Missouri 64083

THE BIBLE

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mind of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Selected by Sister Karen Blocher

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

HANNAH PRAYS TO GOD

I SAMUEL 1:1-23

Do you ever pray to God? Everybody should. It is a wonderful thing to be able to talk to God like you would to your best friend. He is your best friend and He is always near. You can talk to Him anytime.

A long time ago there was a man whose name was Elkanah. He had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. (At that time men were allowed to have more than one wife but God was not pleased with it. Jesus says, "In the beginning it was not so.") Peninnah had children but Hannah had none. Hannah was a good woman but Peninnah provoked her because she had no children. It was a disgrace for a woman not to have children in those days and Hannah was so tormented she didn't know what to do.

Every year Elkanah would take his family to the temple of the Lord which was in the city called Shiloh. It was about twenty miles from the town of Ramah where they lived. I suppose, Peninnah bragged about her children all the way. By the time they arrived in Shiloh, Hannah was almost beside herself. She cried and wouldn't eat. Elkanah tried to comfort her but she was so discouraged, nothing seemed to help.

What could she do? There was only one thing that Hannah could think of and that was to pray to God. She went to the temple and was bitter in her soul but she prayed to God and wept. She promised God that if He would give unto her a man child, she would give him unto the Lord all the days of his life. She meant she would take him to the temple and let him serve the priest and learn of God. Eli was the priest at the temple; he saw Hannah praying. When Hannah prayed only her lips would move but she didn't make a sound. Eli thought she was drunk, but Hannah said that she was sorrowful and had poured out her soul to the Lord. Eli answered her, "Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that you have asked." Hannah went from the temple and did eat and was no more sad.

Elkanah and his family rose up early in the morning and worshipped and returned to their home in Ramah. After a time, Hannah had a baby boy and called him "Samuel", which means "Asked of God." God had answered her prayer. How happy she was that God had blessed her so much!

Everybody has problems at some time or another. When we feel sad or discouraged because things aren't going like we think they should, we can always ask God to help. God will do what is best for us. He is a friend in every time of need. Prayer changes things. Tell God about it. He will not leave you comfortless.

Brother Rudy Cover

THE POTTER'S BROKEN VESSEL

"And He shall break it as the breaking of the potter's vessel that is broken in pieces; He shall not spare; so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit." Isa. 30:14.

Inside the Damascus gate at Jerusalem I saw a potter sitting at his frame turning his wheel with his foot. I made many visits to this potter, for here was in full operation the Bible description of the "potter who sitteth at his work, and turning the wheel about with his foot fashioneth the clay with his arm." By his side the potter had a pile of tempered clay mixed and ready for moulding. Taking a lump of the plastic material in his hand, he placed it on top of the circular board or wheel, which revolves horizontally, and turning the wheel with his foot he shaped the clay into a cone, then thrusting his thumb into the top of the cone the vessel began assuming shape under his hand and arm. By his side sat a water jar filled with water. Into this he occasionally dipped his hand and thus smoothed and shaped the vessel. The plastic clay yielded to his skillful touch, and he made of it such a vessel as best pleased him. Watching the potter one finds the key to many Bible allusions to his work. Jeremiah refers to the potter doing with the clay as seemeth good to him: "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in Mine hand, O house of Israel." If you watched the potter you will see him, once in a great while, mar the vessel he is forming, perhaps because he has not taken a sufficient amount of clay to finish it, or for some other cause, and then he will change it from what he at first intended. So the prophet Jeremiah saw the same operation and referred to it in these words: "And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it." The pottery is very fragile and easily broken, and is also very cheap. For a few pennies you may purchase a large water jar at Joppa or Jerusalem. To the cheapness of pottery is due the rule among the Jews to break an earthen vessel that has become unclean. The cost of purifying would be greater than the first cost of the vessel. "And every earthen vessel, whereinto any of them falleth, whatsoever is in it shall be unclean; and ye shall break it."

Dr. Thomson calls attention to the custom of taking coals from the hearth and dipping water from the pit with pieces of broken pottery, called potsherds in the Bible. It is very common to find at the spring or pit pieces of broken jars, to be used as ladles, either to drink from or fill with; bits of fractured jars are preserved for this

purpose. If you will take your stand near any of the public ovens here in Joppa in the evening, you will see the children of the poor coming with sherds of pottery in their hands, into which the baker pours a small quantity of hot embers and a few coals with which to warm up their evening meal. Isaiah's vessels, however, were to be broken into such small bits that there would not be a sherd of sufficient size to carry away a few embers from the hearth, or to take water out of the pit. These comparisons are exceedingly expressive where the actions referred to are of constant occurrence, as they are throughout this country at the present day.

Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's
The Eternal Verities

OUR PRAYER

Oh! Forgiving Jesus our Dear Saviour,
Forgive us each, for our sinful behavior.
Take our hand, lead us, You must
For it is in You we put our trust.
Jesus, it is to You to whom we pray
Guide and direct us, in our hearts always stay.
Don't let us forget, You are always there
Through good and bad and in times of despair.
Though darkness may come darker than night
We have You, Jesus, the Everlasting Light.
Thank you for the wonders in this world You display
That we have enjoyed for many a day.
Thank you for the blessings You have given us layer by layer
Jesus be with us, till the next sweet hour of prayer.

James Smith
1505 Fairmont Blvd.
Riverside, Calif. 92801



Be not simply good, be good for something.



Many have quarreled about religion that never practice it.

MARRIAGE

HEISEY - BLOCHER

Sis. Karen Heisey, daughter of Bro. and Sis. William Heisey, Bradford, Ohio, and Bro. Stephen Blocher, son of Bro. and Sis. Earl Blocher, Arcanum, Ohio, were united in marriage November 5, 1977 at their new home, Greenville, Ohio. Elder Paul Blocher performed the ceremony. The couple are making their home at 3098 U.S. Rt. 36W, Greenville, Ohio 45331.

NEWS ITEMS

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation enjoyed another two week revival meeting in August with Bro. David Skiles as our evangelist. Bro. Skiles brought us inspiring messages. He also gave us some challenging thoughts about the Torreon Mission and School. We were happy that there were three young men, who gave their hearts to God, united with the Church, and were baptized. We were glad Bro. Skiles' family could also be with us. May the Lord bless them all in their work for the Lord and at the Mission in New Mexico.

Our Lovefeast service was the first Sunday in November. We thank all those who came to enjoy the day in service and worship with us. The visiting ministering Brethren were Ray Shank, Howard Surbey, Laverne Keeney, John Pepper, and Frank Shaffer, who officiated at the Lovefeast service in the evening.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The Editor and his family would like to thank those who remembered them with holiday greetings. More importantly we wish to thank those who have upheld the Bible Monitor through prayers, donations and articles. The work could not continue without the loyal support and prayers of our readers.

Now that the outside activities of the year are fewer, it is hoped that more articles will be contributed. Our supply is very low at the present time meaning we must use more selected material. Your original article will help fill the Bible Monitor with original articles.

One reminder is in order. All articles, whether original or selected, sent in must be accompanied by the name of the sender. The information must be made known to the Editor. Good, usable material has been received which can not be used because the sender did not include his or her name.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TRUTH?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." John 18:37b. "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21. My friend, this is the truth. What is your reply?

Brother Lynn H. Miller

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 5 - "Ye Must Be Born Again." John 3:1-13.

Feb. 12 - Believing on the Son of God. John 3:14-36.

Feb. 19 - Living Water. John 4:1-26.

Feb. 26 - Harvest Time. John 4:27-42.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) What did Jesus mean when He said, "Ye must be born again?" John 3:5.
- (2) How important are we in God's sight? John 3:16.
- (3) What is the one thing that God requires of us to escape condemnation? John 3:18.
- (4) What did Jesus mean by "living water" in John 4:14? See John 6:63; 7:38-39.
- (5) What great thing did the Samaritan woman at the well do after Jesus talked with her? John 4:39.



The shortest road to any heart is round by heaven.



An honest man's the noblest work of God. — Alexander Pope.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR FEBRUARY, 1978

CORRUPTION AND COUNSEL

Memory Verse: Rom. 8:21

Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Wed. 1-Acts 2:1-24

Thur. 2-Acts 2:25-47

Fri. 3-Acts 13:1-25

Sat. 4-Acts 13:26-52

Memory Verse: I Cor. 15:33

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Sun. 5-Rom. 1:1-17

Mon. 6-Rom. 1:18-32

Tues. 7-Rom. 8:1-19

Wed. 8-Rom. 8:20-39

Thur. 9-I Cor. 9:1-27

Fri. 10-I Cor. 15:1-18

Sat. 11-I Cor. 15:19-38

Memory Verse: I Cor. 15:54

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Sun. 12-I Cor. 15:39-58

Mon. 13-II Cor. 2:1-17

Tues. 14-II Cor. 7:1-16

Wed. 15-II Cor. 11:1-33

Thur. 16-Gal. 6:1-18

Fri. 17-Eph. 4:1-32

Sat. 18-I Tim. 6:1-21

Memory Verse: Gal. 6:8

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Sun. 19-II Tim. 3:1-17

Mon. 20-Jam. 5:1-20

Tues. 21-I Pet. 1:1-25

Wed. 22-I Pet. 3:1-22

Thur. 23-II Pet. 1:1-21

Fri. 24-II Pet. 2:1-22

Sat. 25-Jude 1-25

Memory Verse: Eph. 4:29

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Sun. 26-Rev. 19:1-21

Mon. 27-Ex. 18:1-27

Tues. 28-Num. 27:1-23

Memory Verse: I Pet. 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

II Pet. 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

FEBRUARY 1, 1978

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MAKE ME A BLESSING TODAY

I do not ask to choose my path,
Lord, lead me in Thy way;
Inspire each thought and prompt each word,
And make me a blessing today.

Around me, Lord, are sinful men,
Who scorn and disobey;
Use me to win them from their sins,
And make me a blessing today.

To those who once Thy love have known,
But now are far astray;
Help me to lead them back to Thee,
And make me a blessing today.

Some saints of Thine are in distress,
And for Thy fulness pray,
O let me go and help them, Lord,
And make me a blessing today.

If Thou hast any errand, Lord,
Send me, and I'll obey;
Use me in any way Thou wilt,
And make me a blessing today.

— H. J. Zelle

TO WILL AND TO DO

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil. 2:12-13.

Paul's words to the Brethren at Philippi are for us today. He would remind them and us that the deeds of the body are the products of the will of the heart and mind. If a man feels thirsty, his brain begins sending messages expressing its need for water to the rest of the body. The members of the body make every needed effort to provide the needed glass of water. There was first a will then the deed.

The will of the mind is dependent upon the spirit that controls that mind. If the Spirit of God controls that mind the will will be holy and the body's deeds godly. On the other hand if the Spirit of Satan controls the mind the will and the deeds will be evil. Jesus spoke of the fruit produced by trees. The quality of the fruit is dependent upon the quality of the tree. "Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit." Matt. 7:17. As we consider the deeds of our lives, might we consider also the will that produces those deeds.

Paul's admonition to the Philippians (and us) is be sure the fruit is good by having a good tree. This is an important lesson for he is urging them forward in the working out of their souls' salvation. What could be of greater worth than their eternal souls? He knew they were an obedient congregation. He could appreciate that they had served faithfully not only when he was with them but also when he was far away.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1978

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There is little wonder that Paul would speak of working out our salvation in fear and trembling. The soul at stake is of such great value that fear and trembling should accompany our efforts to prepare it for an eternal abode in Heaven. We should fear that if we don't seriously pursue that goal, daily, all will be lost. We should fear and tremble lest we do not follow God's Word as rigorously as we should. We should tremble when we realize that God has gone to such great lengths that we might be able to work out our salvation. He has provided His Only Begotten as the propitiation for our sin, He has given us His Word to serve as a roadmap through this life, and He has sent His Holy Spirit to live in each believer's heart. God has done so much for us well might we tremble and fear as we journey here below.

God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, dwells and works in the heart of the believer. His especial work is that a will might be developed within us that will bring forth holy fruit. If we are serious about being Christians that will, will be there and it will produce the deeds that are necessary. While the will is needed to motivate the deeds, the deeds themselves should never be made light of. "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Matt. 7:20. Without the outward fruit there is no way of knowing what the inner will might be. A motto reads, "One deed is worth one thousand good intentions." It is the deed that is recognized by those who are around us in the home, at work or at Church.

This perhaps seems very simple. If the Spirit of God is present, the will will be holy and the deeds will flow that will please God. But Satan and our self-desires often get in the way of that which sounds so simple. Satan does not want anyone to do God's good pleasure so he brings various devices and schemes against us through lusts, sights and companionship that will hinder our response to the Holy Spirit's urgings. Too often we fail to see the seriousness of disobeying God even in small matters. But this rebellion disrupts the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, so our wills are not holy and our deeds, likewise, fail to please God. Our self-desires also short-circuit the Spirit's work because we do not give up our will and way. We then follow our own way but it will be only a downward journey.

The Apostle Paul, like us, felt his infirmity. "For the good that I would I do not, but the evil which I would not, that I do." Rom. 7:19. He could feel a disruption of the Spirit's work in his life. Many times as we examine ourselves we find this to be our feeling. We can not excuse ourselves from the battle because of these things, but we must continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to work in you to will and to do God's pleasure?

NOTICE CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Newlywed couples may receive a year's subscription free if a request is forwarded to the editor with their name and full address.

To those who anticipate moving - please report a change of address promptly to the editor to prevent the papers being miscarried.

It will also be appreciated if those who send in subscriptions will give the complete addresses and indicate whether they are new or renewal subscriptions.

It will be of help to the editor if subscriptions are always sent in the same name.

Is your subscription renewed?

- Editor

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

You may see the sheep and goats pasturing together in Palestine, the same shepherd watching over both. But when evening comes the shepherd divides his flock, the sheep going to one side and the goats to the other. The Master uses this custom to illustrate the important truth that at the day of judgment there will be a separation of the righteous from the wicked. It is worthy of note that in dividing his flock the shepherd has but little difficulty. By usage the sheep know their places, and the goats likewise theirs. Will it be so in the day of all days when the Judge shall sit upon His throne? He says, "And if any man hear My words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: The Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's
"The Eternal Verities"



If you want a happy day today, give some happiness away.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:

Why Triune Baptism
Plain Dressing
Which is the Right Church?
The Service of Feet Washing as a Religious Rite
What Shall I do with the Commandments of Jesus?
Daily Reminder
The Lord's Supper
The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil
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PUBLICATION BOARD

Bible Monitor (semi-monthly)
\$1.00 per year in advance.
Brethren Hymnal (heavy back)
\$.35 ea. \$39.50 doz.
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No charge for the following:
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Church Letter Blanks
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Minutes of General Conference in One Volume
\$.425 ea. plus \$.35 postage each.

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the printer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as - "thot" for thought, "2" for two, "&" for and, etc.

6. Write or typewrite on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: beleive for believe, recieve for receive, judgement for judgment, ore for or, & for and.

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of the issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material in general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as: Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."

12. Read these and then write.

FIXED

COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. March-Quinter, Kansas
 First Sat. April-Dallas Center, Iowa
 Fourth Sat. April-Pleasant Home, Calif.
 Last Sat. April-Grandview, Missouri
 Last Sun. April-Bethel, Pa.
 First Sun. May-Waynesboro, Pa.
 Third Sat. May-Dayton, Virginia
 Third Sat. May-West Fulton, Ohio
 Third Sun. May-Lititz, Pa.
 Fourth Sun. May-Shrewsbury, Pa.
 Sat before First Sun. Aug.-Broadwater Chapel, Maryland
 Sat before Fourth Sun. Aug.-Shallow Falls, Maryland
 Labor Day Weekend-South Fulton, Ill.
 Last Sun. Sept.-Mountain Dale, Md.
 First Sun. Oct.-Walnut Grove, Md.
 Second Sun. Oct.-Waynesboro, Pa.
 Third Sat. Oct.-Dayton, Virginia
 Third Sun. Oct.-Lititz, Pa.
 Fourth Sat. Oct.-Englewood, Ohio
 Last Sun. Oct.-Bethel, Pa.
 First Sun. Nov.-Shrewsbury, Pa.
 Second Sat. Nov.-Pleasant Home, Cal.

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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scriptures and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or any one else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and unChristian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PA.

Frystown House, located in Frystown, in northwestern Berks County, one mile south of Route 78 and one mile west of Route 501.

Milbach House, located halfway between Kleinfeltersville and Newmans-town, in Lebanon County or halfway between Schafferstown and Womelsdorf, Pa.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD.

From Cumberland, Maryland travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road 3.8 miles, left on Westernport Road 3.8 miles, right on Savage River Road 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, W. Va. area, travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Route #220 north, take Maryland Route #135 at McCooles (just north of Keyser, W. Va.) seven miles to Bloomington, Maryland. Turn right on Savage River Road, 12½ miles to church on right.

CLEARVILLE, PA.

Wards Church, located 14 miles southwest of Everett, Pa. all improved roads. From Everett take Route 26 to Clearville, Pa. At Clearville straight ahead South, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right, one and one-half miles, then turn right at fork. Ward's Church is five miles on the left.

DALLAS CENTER

IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Route 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn south off of Route 44 on to Percival Ave. (first street west of R.R. tracks); the church is located 3 blocks south on the southeast corner of Percival and Ash Streets.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg exit No. 63. Go to second stop light, Route 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Route 257 two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road one block north of county No. 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana No. 15 to Goshen, turn west at Police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., one block turn left on W. Clinton St. One mile to Green Rd., right one block and church is located on east side of road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and south one block.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the South on Route 501, turn right at the fourth stoplight in Lititz, when coming from the North turn left at the first stoplight, which is East Lincoln St. Go to first crossroad, turn right, go to second crossroad, turn right to brick church on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PA.

CUMBERLAND CO.

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Route 114 into East and West, and by Route 641 into North and South. The church is located on West Keller St., or corner of Keller and Washington Street four blocks west of Market St. or Route 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Route 11 will lead east to Route 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Route 16 will lead west to Route 114.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway No. 50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. No. 50 and then north one mile.

MIDWAY, INDIANA

An old red brick school house on your right, as you travel southwest from Peru, just off U.S. Highway 31, three miles from the Courthouse, which is located near the center of Peru, Indiana.

MOUNTAINDALE, MD.

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Md. from east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses No. 15, half mile west of Lewistown and six miles South of Thurmont.

PLEASANT HOME, CA.

Coming from the north on Rt. 99, to Ceres, go through underpass, turn right to stop sign on El Camino St., turn left on Park St. to 6th St. turn right one block to Roeding Ave., turn left and go 1½ miles to the Church on Roeding. Coming from the south, turn off highway on El Camino to stop sign, turn left on Park St. and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Route 20 alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Route 15 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

PLEVNA, IND.

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles west to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Route 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The Church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

NEWBERG, ORE.

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stop light, turn right on North Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Sts. Entering from the west, turn left at first stop light onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Sts.

ORION, OHIO

Located in northeastern Ohio, on Orion Road, one fourth mile west of State

Rt. 8, at a point six miles north of Canton or one and one-half miles north of North Canton and 17 miles south of Akron.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

S. FULTON, ILL.

Astoria, Ill., is located on Rt. 24, coming from east or west, turn south at the bank corner marked by the big clock. Two miles south and on the right at top of hill.

WAYNESBORO, PA.

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, churchhouse is one block.

SHREWSBURY, PA.

Fourteen miles south of York on Route 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at Red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on county road 20. The church is on Rt. 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Route 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on county road 20 at a store. The church is one and one half miles Swallow Falls Park.

WALNUT GROVE, MD.

About midway between Frederick, Md., and Hanover, Pa; One-fourth mile east of Route 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, Md.

W. FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Route 20 alternate, three and one-half miles west of junction of Ohio, Route 108 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CA.

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., go right on Brookside (marked with a Highland Springs sign) to Jonathan, left to Lincoln and right to the church.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PA. - In South Central Pennsylvania, about half-way between Everett on Route 30 and Piney Grove on Route 40. About six miles south of Clearville, Pa., along hard road a little east of Route 26. Services second, fourth and fifth Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Located southwest of Cuba, New Mexico, 23 miles. Turn on State High-

way 197 in Cuba. Follow Route 197 for 19 miles when you will take an unpaved road to the left. A mission sign marks this junction. Proceed 3 miles to the mission. Present personnel includes David and Mildred Skiles and family; Alvin and Mary Ellen Chupp and family; Bridget Smith; Sally Stauffer; Anna Stump; Nedra Pike and Marvin Lorenz. Visitors would be wise to notify mission in advance. Address, P.O. Box 188, Cuba, New Mexico 87013. Please contact for further information.



NEWS ITEM

GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1978

June 10-14

The Lord willing, 1978 General Conference will be held at the Missionary Church Camp Grounds at Ludlow Falls, Ohio, on Route 48.

More information will be given later.

For reservations write to:

Bro. Paul Stump

R. 1

Union, Ohio 45322

Bro. Eldon Lilly

R. 1, Box 23

LaFontaine, Indiana 46940

Wayne Pike

Box 149, 311 E. Jackson

West Unity, Ohio 43570

OBITUARY**NORMAN KEENEY, SR.**

Bro. Norman E. Keeney, Sr., husband of Sister Elsie (Godfrey) Keeney of R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania, passed away October 23, 1977 at the Mt. Hope Dunkard Brethren Church Home, Manheim, Pennsylvania. He was a patient at the Home for four and one half months. He departed this life at the age of 78 years, 10 months and 3 days. He was the son of Samuel and Elva (Goodling) Keeney. He was a farmer all his life. He was a faithful member of the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

His wife, Elsie (Godfrey) Keeney and six children survive: Sis. Marguerite Marks, R. 1, Felton, Pennsylvania, Sis. Dorothy Marks, R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania, Bro. Kenneth Keeney, R. 2, Seven Valley, Pennsylvania, Bro. Laverne Keeney, R. 3, Lititz, Pennsylvania and Bro. Norman Keeney, Jr., R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania; nineteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. Also surviving are two brothers, Eli Keeney, Greensburg, Pennsylvania and Charles Keeney, R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania and one sister Naomi Furhman, R. 3, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were conducted October 26 at the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church by Elders James Kegerreis and Jacob Ness. Interment was in the cemetery adjoining the Church.

"He Is Just Away"

I cannot say, and I will not say
That he is dead — he is just away!
With a cheery smile, and a wave of the hand,
He has wandered into an unknown land,
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be, since he lingers there
And you — O you, who the wildest yearn
For the old time step and glad return
Think of him faring on, as dear
In the love of There as the love of Here:
Think of him still as the same, I say:
He is not dead — he is just away!

Selected from James Whitcomb Riley

The family of Bro. Norman Keeney, Sr. wishes to thank all the relatives, friends and dear Brethren and Sisters, for the prayers, cards and gifts during the illness and death of our loved one. Everything was greatly appreciated. May God bless you all is our prayer.

Sister Elsie Keeney and family

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out of the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

FEBRUARY 15, 1978

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

FRIENDS

Of all the many blessings that our gracious Father sends,
I thank Him most of all today for loyal hearted friends;
Friends who know about my faults and keep on loving still,
Friends whose friendship changes not with happy days or ill,
Friends to whom my inmost secrets safely I confide,
Friends who make me happy just to have them by my side,
Yes! Of all the many blessings that our gracious Father sends,
I thank Him most of all today for loyal hearted friends.
I like my friends to meet each other — those for whom I care,
I feel their friendship's worth so much, I want the rest to share;
Friendship's like the miracle of loaves in Galilee,
Though shared by many others, there's none the less for me;
And since I've thought of you, dear friend, in friendship's
 closest tie,
I've longed to introduce you to a Friend; for He and I
Spend many hours together in a happy, solemn tryst,
How I wish that you might know Him! my best Friend, Jesus Christ.

— Horace G. Halse
Selected by Brother Lester Flora

FAITHFUL IN THE LEAST

The news often contains stories of those entrusted with huge sums of money who proved unfaithful in their handling of that money. Either they used the money unwisely, investing it in unsound projects, or through deceit they stole the money and fled. We are struck by the news of one who embezzles a million dollars or some other grand sum. We think it terrible that one could do such a thing. But do we ever stop to think that in God's sight the theft of a million dollars is no worse than the theft of one dollar?

The amount of the crime does not change the fact of the crime. While the theft of a large sum gains notoriety in the press, the theft of one dollar does not go unnoticed by God. When we come to the close of this life it is not the verdict of the newspapers that we will be most interested in but the verdict of God. The newspaper may enhance or decrease our reputation here but it is God who will look at our true character and deal with us accordingly.

Jesus spoke of this truth in Luke 16:10, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." This truth is applicable in both the material and Spiritual activities of our lives. If we entrust a sum of money to the care of another we want someone with a background of faithful dealings. We want someone who will not cheat nor steal from us whether it is a little money or alot.

If a person has built a reputation of honesty, it only takes one misdeed to destroy that reputation. That one error or yielding to temptation will undo all the good done in the past and will cast a dark cloud upon future dealings. There will always be a suspicion

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surrounding the one who has one time been dishonest although at all other times he has been faithful. "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor." Eccles. 10:1.

There is a relationship between our handling of material possessions and our faithfulness in Spiritual affairs. Jesus continues in Luke 16:11, "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" If a man is dishonest in temporal affairs he will hardly do any better in Spiritual activities. Unrighteous mammon is so unimportant compared to Spiritual things, yet its faithful handling is a sign of one who will be careful in more important things. It is good advice for the Christian to "abstain from all appearance of evil." For to gain even an undeserved reputation for allowing wrong in our life will affect our witness as a Christian.

Although we may think that a few cents or a few dollars are not very much, especially compared to the great sums so blithely spoken of today, still if we are going to be faithful in the great sums we have to first be faithful in the small sums. A million dollars seems like a lot yet it is made up of the common pennies and dollars that we handle every day. When handling the "true riches" there is a need for care even greater than in handling the riches of this life.

We often boast of our great faithfulness in our service for Christ and the Church. Yet, as we examine our lives do we find some small areas where we have failed to live up to our reputation? Do we assume that God is not going to be too interested in our handling of small things in our Christian life? If we are to be judged faithful in the great things we must be faithful in the small things.

There are many small things the Church asks of us which of themselves seem so small and unimportant. They seem so small that we might disregard them and do not press for their observance in the interests of "keeping the peace." Yet it is these little things which have a great effect upon whether we are going to be totally or partially faithful. These little things are so simple we could do them with very little trouble if we wanted to. Jesus spoke of the Pharisees who were so careful about little things such as tithing their spices but had forgotten the greater things of the Spiritual life — judgment, mercy and faith. In commending to them these greater things He told them, "...these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Matt. 23:23b. The little things — the small duties — the trivial rules — all fit together that we may be faithful in the least so we can be faithful in the greater. God has given the Church her doctrines and duties not in pieces but as a whole but we must carry out each piece so we may be found faithful in the whole.

Are you faithful in the least?

IS THERE ROOM IN YOUR CLOSET?

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt. 6:6.

While viewing a badly cluttered closet, someone said, "The Bible says we are to go into our closet to pray, but who can get in theirs?" Literally obeying this verse might not be possible, but that doesn't keep us from being alone with God somewhere. Our storage closets might be filled to overflowing and it doesn't matter too much, but what about our prayer closets?

We know this closet means a place where we can be alone with God. It also means a state of mind which is free of interference and able to commune with God. It means just you and God will be there. It is important to keep this prayer closet clean and in proper order, so you can pray acceptably. When you shut the door, all the distractions and hindrances should be shut out, not shut in with you.

Have you allowed your time alone with God to become cluttered up like some closets are? Or, do you have room, mentally, to become quiet and pray in your heart? If we let our prayer closets get all cluttered up with things that don't belong there, will be no room to pray quietly and earnestly. Our prayers then will come more from our lips than from our hearts.

If you were literally in a closet with the door shut and you were praying, only God would be listening. You wouldn't be impressing anyone, as no one but God could hear you. God knows your heart and you can't fool Him, so any pretense is wasted effort. If your heart and mind are all cluttered up with things which don't belong there, He knows it. If your heart is ready to be blessed in prayer, He knows that, too.

The Bible says we are to pray without ceasing, but there are times when we especially need to pray. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35. Jesus made it a point to start the day in close fellowship with God, before the day's activities began. We need to commune with God also before the day's activities interfere. When the phone starts ringing, there's a job to go to, or work to be done at home, it's hard then to have time alone with God. It's like clutter in your closet when you try to pray in the midst of so many interferences.

"And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed." Luke 5:16. Jesus wanted to get away from all the people for awhile. They

were coming to Him from everywhere in large numbers and there were many demands on Him. Sometimes we need to withdraw and pray alone. When pressures build up, we need to clear our minds and be alone with God to regain our balance spiritually.

"And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:41-42. Jesus expressed His willingness to accept God's will, even though it hurt. We need to put God's will ahead of our own also. If our prayer closets are cluttered with selfishness and a desire to have everything our way, we won't pray as Jesus did. A prayer from an unsundered heart won't bring you God's blessing.

There are many things which clutter our prayer closets, things which get between us and God and destroy the harmony which should be there. Ill will, too much concern for things instead of people, lack of concern for the unsaved all keep us from praying as we should. Self-righteousness, indifference toward God's will, self-indulgence all clutter up our prayer closets and keep us out of contact with God.

If you fail to serve God as He wants you to and where He wants you to if you are unkind, if you let family problems and situations interfere with God's will for you, your prayer closet will show it. You won't be able to get past the clutter so you can reach the things you really need, the blessings that only God can give you. Put God first so He can bless you and use you.

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:" Matt. 26:41a. We all need to pray to receive strength to cope with whatever comes our way. Without the Lord's strength, you will get into alot of trouble. You need to recognize that you are not self-sufficient and you do need the Lord. Don't let your prayer life become all cluttered up with attitudes which spoil your closeness to God and cut you off from His strength.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. Abiding in Him and doing His will doesn't leave any room for things which hinder our prayers. If you want Jesus to grant your requests, get rid of those attitudes and desires which prevent it. Clean out that closet and make room to pray — now!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

ARE WE WILLING?

These thoughts are taken from and inspired by a sermon of Bro. Robert Carpenter, January 8, 1978.

Have we given any thought as to making a sacrifice? Quite often a situation presents itself suddenly and we must make a decision. Remember I Cor. 10:31b, "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." That will help us make a decision and whatever sacrifice may be necessary. Our vision seems a little dim and often an opportunity passes by unnoticed until too late. Should we know the exact time of our Lord's soon return our vision perhaps would improve to where we could see opportunities to witness, serve and sacrifice on every hand.

Here are a few of the many who were willing to make a great sacrifice. II Sam. 23:15-17. The three mighty men in this chapter heard the longing of David for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem. They risked their lives to fulfill his desire.

Genesis 22. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son's life at the request of the Lord. Can we imagine the great mental anguish he suffered?

Acts 26:26. Paul in his desire to do the Lord's will was not afraid to speak the truth to King Agrippa. He realized that his life could be in jeopardy.

It has also been told to us about a young man who was employed by a farmer. While they were working in the field, the farmer had a serious accident. The young man seeing the farmer was bleeding, made a tourniquet with rags then ran to the highway to get help. Five cars passed by paying no attention to him. In desperation, he laid down on the road. The sixth car stopped.

In all these instances they were willing to make a sacrifice. They were not required to carry through with it and give their lives but because they were willing it was considered the same as if they had.

Are we willing?

Sister Delores Lorenz
R. 4, Box 64, Kokomo, Indiana 46901



There's nothing too great for His power,
There's nothing too small for His love.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

KEEPING A PROMISE

I SAM. 1:24-28; 2:1-11

Did you ever promise to do something for the Lord? Hannah promised the Lord if He would give her a son, she would give him to the Lord all the days of his life. The Lord answered her prayer. Hannah had a son and called him Samuel. I don't think it would be easy for a mother to give away her baby, but Hannah had promised God she would and she did.

After Hannah had weaned Samuel she took him up to the House of the Lord in Shiloh. She said to Eli, the priest, "I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath answered my prayer. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." And she gave him to Eli, the priest.

Hannah prayed unto the Lord a wonderful prayer. She spoke of how her heart rejoiced in the Lord and in His salvation, that there was none as holy as the Lord. The Lord is strong and mighty and He will raise up the poor and will bless His people. (Read I Sam. 1:1-10). How happy she was that God had answered her prayer and that she had fulfilled her promise by giving Samuel unto the Lord all his life.

Do you know what else God did for Hannah? He blessed her abundantly and she had three more sons and two daughters.

When we obey God and live up to our promises He will bless us abundantly. God wants to bless us but we must be obedient to God to receive a blessing. Whenever we make a promise we should remember to do it whether it is to God or to someone else. It is better not to promise than to promise and not do it. Promises are for keeps.

Brother Rudy Cover

MY ANSWERED PRAYER

MY PRAYER

"Dear Lord, it's the close of another day and before I go to sleep, there's some things I must say. It seems I've rather drifted away from You over the past years and somehow tonight I feel like emptying out what's on my mind.

I read a Scripture today that said, "Filthiness, foolish talking, and

jesting should not once be named amongst us; but rather the giving of thanks." I read that our speech should be sound, that it cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed having no evil thing to say of You. Lord, I can't understand. What do You expect of us?

I'm sure you mustn't have meant it the way it sounds. After all, when we young people get together about all we do is play games, tell jokes, and do fun things. We never talk about You but You understand, don't You? I listen to the preacher every Sunday and I'm sure You don't expect us young people to pray and talk about "church things" on Saturday's too, do You?

Lord, now you know I love You and I'd be willing to die for You if I had to, but don't You think You're a little hard on us sometimes? Your Word sounds so strict. Sometimes I feel like I should be telling everyone about You; like when I read verses like, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them..." But Lord, I know You realize it's hard for me to talk about You. I just get all choked up and nervous.... Yes, I realize I don't have any trouble talking other times, but, well, we just aren't all made alike and I'm not one who can easily testify of You. I'm sure You can use me in another way.

Lord, when You tell us to keep the Sabbath day holy, that doesn't mean we can't spend the day in fun, does it? Last Sunday one of the young people mentioned visiting an old widow and singing for her. Most of us laughed at the idea. I guess it's because we wanted to spend the afternoon having a little more lively type of fun.

Now I know that You did a whole lot for me, Lord. You even hung on the cross. That's wonderful and I'm sure thankful. I can see that you'd want us to serve You and try to pay You back in some way. I'm really trying, Lord, and although I know I fail, I hope You'll accept my meager efforts. After all, no one's perfect!

I read in Exodus how God was so angry with the children of Israel when they started worshiping idols while Moses was on the mountains writing the Ten Commandments that He wanted to slay them all. Now Lord, if I understand right, idols are anything that comes between us and You. I hope You don't feel too angry with me when I let material things take priority in my life. I'm young but when I'm older, I'll really get down to business and serve You right.

Thank you, Lord, for all You've done for me and I really love You.
Amen."

THE ANSWER

"You call yourself a Christian but if you really loved Me and wanted to follow Me, you'd keep my commandments without even questioning.

How can My children hurt Me so? You say you realize I did a lot for you. Well, if that's the case, why do you think you can't keep my commandments? Indeed, you serve a jealous God and anything less than the best isn't satisfactory. You think you could do too much for Me. Instead, your MOST isn't even near what I deserve.

You're usually the center of attraction at get-togethers. Your voice is often heard above the others as your boisterous talking echoes across the crowd. Yet, you say you can't talk of Me. Here's a verse that might make you think. "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his glory."

You're in a warfare, Christian, and you'd better take a definite side. The middle-of-the-road is a dangerous place to be at life's end. "But let us, who are of the day, be sober putting on the breastplate of faith and love and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." "Pray that the word may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you." "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art called, and has professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God... that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

If only you'd know of all the blessings you're passing up by being lukewarm. You "have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof." Your Christian life is dead because you don't live up to your potential. I want only your utmost best.

I didn't say you couldn't have any good fellowship with other young people on Sunday afternoons but I DID say you should visit the widows. You could at least take several Sundays (or weekdays for that matter) in a couple months time to do something edifying other than just seeking enjoyment for yourself. How much more edifying it would be to visit precious, lonely, elderly people than to spend the day in fun and folly.

Strive harder, pray more, and "let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."

I'm longing to have you fully surrendered; I speak to you as your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Sister Sally Stauffer
Box 188, Cuba, New Mexico 87013



As surely as God is good, so surely there is no such thing as necessary evil. —Southey

THE CHRISTIAN'S POWER

"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power." Luke 4:32.

The strength of the Christian does not lie in the defenses that he builds against the stronghold of Satan. It is not in his fortresses of fellowship or his knowledge of Scripture. Rather, the strength of the Christian lies in his closeness and communion with the Lord Jesus Christ and his faith in the finished work of Calvary. Defenses against the devil are necessary, but Christ will fight our battles if we so allow him. Many Christians rely on their separation to carry them through, but the Scripture says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done...." Let us rather look to Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. That is the strength of the Christian.

Brother Lynn Miller

COMMUNION

The Communion Service, because of its sacred importance, John 6:53, 54, should be engaged in understandingly and prayerfully. The time and manner of its institution by our Blessed Lord, the purpose attached to it, Luke 22:19, the solemn language of Paul, I Cor. 11:25-29 the warnings and barriers thrown around the Lord's table throughout the New Testament record, — all combine to show that it is a service, requiring special condition of heart and life, and specific relation to Christ and His Church. "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

Some standard of fitness must be adopted and respected by the Lord's people. That all persons, irrespective of mental, moral and spiritual conditions, are entitled to the high and holy service of the Communion, none dare assert.

The necessary qualifications are embraced in the law of membership into the church and state of union, peace and love among her members. I Cor. 1:10; Matt. 5:23; I John 3:14-16.

In the act of complying with the law of church membership the individual is admitted into the church, — the "one body by the one spirit," which implies, (1) unity of body; (2) unity of doctrine; (3) unity of spirit, all of which make communion possible. The communion service is one of the privileges of church life. It lies back of membership and is dependent upon it, and, therefore, any one desiring the Communion, must expect to reach it in the regular way. Membership first; then the Communion.

The law of membership is a wall of protection to church privileges and fellowship. In this respect the church is like all other institutions. If we get the privileges and benefits of any institution, we first become identified with it. This is fundamental in all good government. To reverse this order would not only imperil government, but would in fact, destroy the best government on earth. Why should this not be true in the church as well? The command to commune was given to Christians, — those who had secured membership in the church, not to those who had no membership, as a commemorative service, not as a means of grace to sinners. Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:24-25. After this manner the apostles labored. The Pentecostians were first taught, then baptized according to Christ's command, after which they engaged in the breaking of bread.

The law of church membership embraces teaching, faith, repentance, baptism, pardon of sin, and gift of the Holy Spirit. See Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:37-38, 16:30-33; I Cor. 12:13; Heb. 11:6. From these texts we deduce the following conclusions:

That teaching is a condition to faith.

That faith is a condition to repentance.

That repentance is a condition to baptism.

That baptism is a condition to pardon of sin.

That the pardon of sin is a condition to the gift of the Holy Spirit, — all of which are required by the law for church membership.

It is clear from the foregoing analysis that a person entitled to the privileges of the Communion, is one who has obtained membership in the church, having exercised true evangelical faith and repentance, and has been baptized by the "one baptism" into each name of the Holy Trinity, Matt. 28:19, for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38, and continues steadfast in the doctrine of the church and in peace with her members. Such individual membership makes the "one body of the one faith," joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment, "speaking the same thing," having no divisions. I Cor. 1:10.

Peace and love among the members, one with another, are absolutely essential in order to commune. I Thess. 5:13; Matt. 5:24; I Cor. 5:7-8; I Pet. 1:22; I John 4:20. Brethren, united in faith and practice but not at peace and in love, one with another, dare not approach the Lord's table. Absence of peace and love makes absence of communion. The highest service among men on earth requires the highest condition of heart. If peace and love be

destroyed, reconciliation first, then the Communion, — union service. Matt. 5:24. If this be true of those of the same faith and practice, what may be said of those differing in faith and practice?

Now, for the sake of being better understood, we remark that the qualifications, preparatory to Communion are of two classes, individual and congregational. The individual is the act of the individual obtaining admission into the church through the law of church membership, and the congregational is the necessary state of love, peace and union throughout the membership of the church.

The sanctity of the Lord's table should be carefully guarded and preserved; for "we have an altar whereof they have no right to eat who serve the tabernacle." Heb. 13:10. This throws positive restriction around the church altar or Lord's table. This closes the door against all who serve the flesh. God's ancient sanctuary and holy place were most rigidly guarded lest they be disfiled; and if that which was but the shadow was so diligently kept from defilement, with what sacred care should we reverence and protect the church altar, consecrated by the blood of Jesus?

To show that this view of the teaching of the Scriptures is not ours only, we quote briefly from a view of the early Church Fathers and modern writers.

Justin Martyr, who wrote about fifty years after the death of St. John, says, "This food is called by us Eucharist, of which it is not lawful for any to partake but such as believe the things that are taught by us to be true, and have been baptized."

Jerome, who wrote about A.D. 400, says, "Catechumens cannot communicate at the Lord's table, being unbaptized." Austin A.D. 500, Bede, A.D. 700, Theophylact, A.D. 1100, all say that no unbaptized person was admitted to the Communion.

Dr. Wall says, "Among all the absurdities that were ever held none ever maintained that any person should partake of the Communion before he was baptized." Dr. Adam Clarke says, "No person was permitted to come to the Eucharist till he had been baptized."

This was conceded and taught by both Baptists and Anabaptists, at least until within the last century and let us keep in mind that a person not baptized according to the Scriptures, is unbaptized.

Can the members of the different denominations commune together at the Lord's Table? They cannot, because:

1. They are not of the "same mind." "Schism in the body" makes Communion impossible. Communion, among those of the different denominations, is to have "schism in the body," therefore it is not communion.

2. Communion is agreement. II Cor. 6:14-16. Communion among those of the different churches is to feign agreement in disagreement.

3. The Scriptures say, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," "the faith once delivered to the saints," and the one original baptism before communion, after the original model. Communion, among those of the different churches, implies many faiths, many baptisms.

4. In the institution of the Communion by our Savior and in the practice of the primitive church, it was associated with foot-washing and the Lord's Supper. All church members do not believe in this order. Communion among those of the different churches would force one of two things,— either the divine order and union of services would have to be put asunder, or some would have to practice what they do not believe. "Whatsoever is not of faith, is sin." Rom. 14:23.

5. At the original Communion, which is the pattern for all time, none were seated at the Lord's table but Christ and His disciples. Matt. 26:20. Open Communion among those of the different churches is a violation of the authority and example of the original Communion.

WHAT OPEN COMMUNION DOES.

1. It disarms the church of all right of judgment as to the fitness of her communicants. This places the individual over the church. The Gospel places the church over the individual.

2. It robs the church of the right and power of self-protection against the evils from without, which she aims to guard against from within.

3. It establishes no standard of qualification, or fitness, preparatory to the Communion, more than a conscientious profession and membership in a society bearing a religious name.

4. It sanctions any form of baptism as Scriptural, as baptism relates to membership, and membership to the Communion, whether it be the form they practice, or the form they oppose.

5. It sanctions the form of doctrine of the different churches as valid, however widely it may differ in sentiment and practice.

6. It feigns a union in heart and life of those who live irreconcilably opposed to each other in the practice of their religion.

7. It virtually robs a church of her discipline, or cripples her fatally in its application. To illustrate: A member commits an offense, so grave as to be disowned, but, without making reconciliation, he unites with another church and when the door is opened, and all members of good standing in other churches are

invited the same unreconciled party comes forward, without restraint, to the church from which he was disowned, and deliberately does that which was reprov'd before his expulsion. He does it, not because he is in fellowship with them, but because he is in GOOD STANDING where he holds his membership. Such practice renders all discipline powerless, and takes all judgment, as to fitness, out of the hands of the church, and places it into the hands of the individual, irrespective of the relation he sustains to the church, holding the service. You say, by expulsion, he is not fit to be a member of your church, but, according to the rule of "open communion," he is fit to commune with you. Why exercise judgment ABSOLUTELY, as to whether he is entitled to membership, that upon which the Communion depends, and NOT AS to the Communion also?

8. The Gospel forbids carnal warfare, — brother going to law with brother, secret and oath-bound organizations, the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating beverages (II Cor. 6:17), but under the rule of "open Communion," the holding of these sacred Gospel principles is inoperative and worthless. Those who hold them, and those who hold them not, are admitted on equality at the Communion Table.

Finally, why should those, who differ so widely in faith and practice, attempt to commune together around that altar, the approach to which stands as a test of Christian union? Why differ in so many other points of doctrine, and feign a union here? Is not union in faith, in heart, in life, essential to Scriptural Communion?

Selected from an old Brethren tract by
Sister Maxine Surbey

MARRIAGE

LONGENECKER - GINGRICH

Sis. Karen Longenecker, daughter of Bro. and Sis. George T. Longenecker, Jr., R. 1, Bernville, Pennsylvania and Bro. Jay Paul Gingrich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gingrich, R. 4, Myerstown, Pennsylvania were united in marriage on January 7, 1978.

Bro. David Kegerreis performed the ceremony after a sermon by Bro. Jack Snyder at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Frystown, Pennsylvania. The couple will reside at R. 1, Box 132, Bethel, Pennsylvania 19507.

NEWS ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation plans to hold revival meetings, March 19 to April 2. Bro. Jack Snyder, Stevens, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist. We invite all who can to come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

THANK YOU

In appreciation for all the prayers, cards, letters, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital for surgery and since I am home. Thanks to each one.

Yours in Christian love.

Viola H. Moss

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH

March 5 — "The Son Liveth." John 4:43-54.

March 12 — "Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?" John 5:1-16.

March 19 — Everlasting Life - Now! John 5:17-29.

March 26 — THE RESURRECTION - John 20:1-18.

QUESTIONS AND REFERENCES:

- (1) Jesus is the life — John 1:4; 5:26; 6:63; 20:31.
- (2) Why didn't Jesus help the man get in the pool of Bethesda? John 5:8.
- (3) How can we have everlasting life now? John 5:24.
- (4) Why do you think that Peter and John knew not the scripture that Jesus must rise again from the dead? Jesus had told them that He would be crucified and the third day rise again. Matt. 20:17-19.



When I enter that beautiful city,
And the saved all around me appear,
I hope that someone will tell me,
"It was you who invited me here."

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MARCH, 1978

COUNSEL

Memory Verse: Deut. 32:28

For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them.

Wed. 1-Deut. 32:21-43

Thur. 2-Josh. 9:1-27

Fri. 3-Jud. 20:1-25

Sat. 4-Jud. 20:26-48

Memory Verse: Josh. 9:14

And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord.

Sun. 5-I Sam. 14:1-23

Mon. 6-I Sam. 14:24-46

Tues. 7-II Sam. 15:1-18

Wed. 8-II Sam. 15:19-37

Thur. 9-II Sam. 16:1-23

Fri. 10-II Sam. 17:1-29

Sat. 11-I Kings 12:1-19

Memory Verse: II Chron. 22:4

Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the Lord like the house of Ahab: for they were his counselors after the death of his father to his destruction.

Sun. 12-I Kings 12:20-33

Mon. 13-II Kings 6:1-23

Tues. 14-II Kings 18:1-18

Wed. 15-II Kings 18:19-37

Thur. 16-II Kings 19:1-19

Fri. 17-II Kings 19:20-37

Sat. 18-I Chron. 10:1-14

Memory Verse: Neh. 4:15

And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

Sun. 19-II Chron. 22:1-12

Mon. 20-II Chron. 25:1-28

Tues. 21-II Chron. 30:1-27

Wed. 22-II Chron. 32:1-15

Thur. 23-II Chron. 32:16+33

Fri. 24-Ezra 4:1-24

Sat. 25-Ezra 7:1-28

Memory Verse: Job 5:13

He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.

Sun. 26-Ezra 8:21-36

Mon. 27-Ezra 10:1-17

Tues. 28-Neh. 4:1-23

Wed. 29-Neh. 6:1-19

Thur. 30-Job 5:1-27

Fri. 31-Job 26:1-14

BIBLE MONITOR

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MARCH 1, 1978

NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ONLY A SMILE

It was only a smile,
And little it cost in the giving;
But it scattered the night
Like morning light,
And made the day worth living.

It was only a kindly word,
And a word that was lightly spoken;
Yet not in vain,
For it stilled the pain
Of a heart that was nearly broken.

It was only a helping hand,
And it seemed of little availing;
But its clasp was warm,
And it saved from harm
A brother whose strength was failing.

— Author unknown
Selected by Sister Della Klepinger

A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE

From time to time Christians are permitted to enjoy an extra special occasion that brings joy and blessings to the soul. These times are often spoken of as mountaintop experiences. They are highlights in the midst of an otherwise common life. Often these times come while attending General Conference or at a Lovefeast meeting when there are more members with us than usual. But it is possible for the mountaintop to be experienced at an ordinary Sunday service. This is one reason why we should be found in Church at every service if at all possible. If we are absent we risk missing one of these extraordinary experiences. Because of the evil day in which we live, we can ill afford to miss out on blessings which God intends for us to enjoy.

These occasions are not ordinary. They only come once in a while. This Spiritual peak is a foretaste of Heaven. We are made to feel that we are in "Heavenly places in Christ Jesus." The Christian's future Home is always very attractive to us, causing us to value the smallest glimpse or foretaste of that place. These mountaintop experiences encourage us to press on to that Home where the mountaintop here will be the ordinary over there.

Moses led the children of Israel from Egypt to the other side of the Jordan. He was not able to enter Canaan, but before his death he was permitted to view the Promised Land from a mountaintop. It must have been a thrill for him to view that land which had been his goal throughout the years. He could see that country as a whole, while from our mountaintop we get only a glimpse of that Land which is far too great for us to comprehend.

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Jesus often repaired to places of solitude that He might pray and commune with His Heavenly Father. Often it was on a mountaintop. It was a place of Spiritual refreshment. If our Lord and Master sought these quiet, soul-refreshing times, how much more do we need them. We need every possible opportunity to strengthen our Christian lives. Christ found Himself constantly surrounded by the elements of the world from which He retreated for a season of refreshment. The elements of this present world are even more dangerous to us who are but sinful flesh.

To neglect prayer, Bible study, the regular Church services and occasions of Christian fellowship is to deny ourselves the very means of advancement that our souls need. A mountaintop experience is not predictable but to neglect these things is to make the experience less likely. Every service has the potential of being that looked-for-experience although some services are nearer the peak than others.

When we do enjoy the rare experience at the top we wish that we would never have to come down. We may even make promises that we will strive harder to stay in that place. Yet all-too-soon, we find ourselves back down in the valley of everyday living. We often wonder why it is necessary to come down again.

In our natural lives, we know if we have sunshine day after day we come to take it for granted and are unthankful for the sun's warmth and light. But after a day or two of rain or cloudy weather we again appreciate the sunshine. Although it pains us to be in the valley, where we become too concerned with minor things, still to be on top the mountain constantly would cause us to lose our appreciation for that experience. By being in the valley, the contrast between the valley and the peak make those alpine occasions very special.

The rare air of the mountain makes us dizzy because we can not get the proper amount of oxygen. These Spiritual occasions are so high and extraordinary that it seems inevitable that we will come down to the lower areas once more. Although we do come down from the peak, we need not sink as low as we had been before. Hopefully this experience will encourage and strengthen us to raise the level of our ordinary efforts.

The Spiritual strength and insight that we receive on the mountaintop will do us no good if we do not use them in our daily living. If we sit in the dark just because we refuse to turn the light on, we can not blame anyone but ourselves. If we gain the mountaintop but fail to apply its lessons in our daily lives it will be us who will have to answer for squandered opportunities. The mountaintop is there to help and encourage us day by day that we might live fruitful Christian lives.

Have you had a mountaintop experience lately? Have you made such an experience possible by your living? Have you profited in your daily life by this special occasion? If not, why not?

WHAT IS HAPPINESS?

Are you happy today? You should be. As I pick up a pen to write, I meditate upon the beauty of the snow. Certainly God's creation is beautiful.

When snow falls and piles up so high that it leaves us paralyzed as we are now, just think "I'm in our home with our family to enjoy while we are snowbound" . . . be happy! We can learn a new song together, read God's word and thank the Lord we have a voice to sing praises to Him. Smile and be happy! Be grateful that we still can worship God without being molested or harmed. Be thankful for warm clothing and warm homes, especially at this time of the year. Be happy to see the sun shine and see the rain patter on the windows; we need both for life here on earth.

Oh, the joy of watching our little one/ones learn to work with their hands, hearing them sing and coming to us for love and affection. Look up to God — thank Him for sending a bundle of joy from Heaven to bless your home.

Then what a joy it is to see the winter snow melt away and the beauty of Spring come to life. Surely, it is proof enough that God is alive and reigns on the Throne! When the first bud bursts open and little ones touch, smell and even pluck that first bud, be happy. The child is just learning the beauty of life.

When things don't seem to go right, the tire blows out on the machine, the sewing machine just will not sew, the cookies burn, you just hammered your finger, your child scatters his/her favorite toys around the room, just heave a sigh, if you wish, grin and say, "Praise the Lord!" Remember the patience of Job? Be happy — what is a home if there is no activity, noises or no mess to clean up?

Yes, we have our disappointments in life. Disasters, losing our loved ones, maybe even pain comes to us, but remember, our Lord went through a lot, even dying on the cross to shed His blood for you and me that we might have everlasting Life. Isn't that enough to make us truly happy? Losing our loved ones is not a happy thought at all. Yet, when our loved ones pass on, our minds go back many, many years to recall the good times we had together. We can have that hope within us of someday meeting again in a Beautiful Home above.

You have no reason to go around with a long face. Just open your eyes and see the wondrous glory of God! When you meet a

friend on the street, give him a smile, not a frown. If there is someone you know who is not happy, make them happy. Get together a Friendship scrap book, send a card, make some food for their physical bodies, or call them by phone. Remember the Golden Rule, --- "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Someday maybe you will be discouraged and would appreciate someone to make you happy.

Keep busy, --- use the talents that God has blessed you with.

Be happy, avoid such grief and heartache and strive each day to do God's Will and walk in the light. The familiar gospel song, "Trust and Obey" clearly prescribes the divine formula for a life of joy and blessing:

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word,
What a Glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will he abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of his love,
Until all on the altar we lay.
For the favor he shows, and the joy he bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be HAPPY IN JESUS, but to trust and obey.

Let us all try to be a better, happier Christian and live and follow Christ's teachings and His example.

Sister Shirley Frick

IF YOU CAN'T GET ANYONE ELSE

"If you can't possibly get anyone else to do it, then I will, but I really don't have time." Did you ever say that to anyone? Did you ever say that to God? What happens if your own request for help is answered with, "If you can't get anyone else, I'll try to help you, but not now?" It's different then, isn't it? When you need help, you need it right now, you say. Just remember: so do others!

What happens when God wants a job done and you won't do it? Excuses won't get the job done. It just pushes your responsibility off on someone else. It might mean that someone becomes financially burdened when you could have helped free of charge. Or maybe someone needs a friend to talk to, if you're too busy to listen, it might become a tragedy. We need to be sensitive to the needs of others and help when the need is there, not tomorrow or next week.

"A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth." Ps. 112:5a. This may mean lending a helping hand as well as something you have. So

often, we would rather give money when our time is needed, we want to give clothes when groceries are needed, or we want to give advice when our prayers are needed. When the Lord speaks to our hearts about someone's needs, He will also advise us how to help. Don't try to substitute something else, or try to get out of helping altogether. Just do what God asks. It's so easy to say, "Could you get someone else?", but there is no blessing in ignoring another's need.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecc. 9:10. The time to do something is when the opportunity is there. When you are asked to help, do it. Don't put it off with "maybe I can help you later if you still need me." What if no one else can help and your "later" never comes?

In past ages, kings ordered their subjects around and if they didn't follow orders, it was off with their heads. The Lord wants us to serve Him because we want to, not because we feel forced to. When an opportunity is there and He shows you what to do, do it. If you stand there saying you're too busy, the opportunity will be gone. God will very likely give your job to another and you can be sure of one thing: someone else will get the blessing. When you mind the Lord, you will be blessed and when you don't, you've only cheated yourself.

Let's suppose that the Samaritan had said to the wounded man, "I know you're hurt and you need help, but I don't have time. Maybe you can get someone else to help you, but if you can't, I'll help you next week on my day off." That sounds a little ridiculous, doesn't it? Next week would have been too late. Yet sometimes our excuses are just as foolish, maybe even as tragic as that would have been.

We usually aren't asked to help someone in such dire need, but we are not without responsibility. To put off helping is a shame to us, even if the need seems minor in importance. We are not asked by God to give something we don't have or can't do, but it is important to be willing to do the things we can do. "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." II Cor. 8:12.

"He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor." Prov. 22:9. "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." II Cor. 9:6. Whatever you give, however you give, you will receive. If you are generous, you'll receive accordingly. If you are stingy or give nothing, you'll get that.

We all remember the story of the little red hen who did everything from planting the grain to baking the bread and none of the

animals would help her. When it came time to eat the bread, they all wanted to help. They wanted the blessing without sharing in the responsibility. We know animals don't plant, hoe, and so forth, but this story shows us how we are so often. We want to get but not give. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." We are to give, which creates a vacuum or empty place, which God will fill with a blessing.

Luke 14:16-24 tells us of one who prepared a special meal and no one would come to eat. "And they all with one consent began to make excuse." They were so busy with their own interests that they didn't even bother to come for a blessing. If we excuse ourselves from the Lord's work, thinking we are too busy or for some other reason, at that same moment we are also excusing ourselves from receiving His blessing. Is it worth it?

The Samaritan gave help in abundance because he cared when he saw the need. We should give abundantly of our time, our money, our love and concern whenever we see the need. We especially owe love to each other (see Rom. 13:8) and we should do for others as we would want them to do for us if the situation were reversed. If an opportunity to help someone comes your way, don't pass it by. Be a friend and give, go or do as the Lord directs. Be the one who helps, not the one who makes excuses.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
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JUSTICE, PEACE AND REST

Justice leads to peace and peace leads to rest. It is an important matter that we stand for justice for there shall be a resurrection of the just and the unjust.

There is no permanent peace with the unrighteous. "And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness that iniquity was there." Eccles. 3:16. Unrighteous judgment is an act of injustice or self condemnation. The Psalmist David said, "How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked." "An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked." Prov. 29:27. Injustice scattereth; justice gathers and unites for good.

Christ taught we should abide by the Golden Rule. The path of the just is a shining light. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10.

The truth and faithful are following Christ, our Saviour, who came to bring justice and peace to fallen humanity. People who

sometimes judge others by false reports and evil imaginations become a hinderance to truth and righteousness. Sometimes we learn to know that people who do much complaining about others have greater faults in their own lives.

"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the father which hath sent me." John 5:30. Referring to the unrighteous, "The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace." Carnal strife does not exist among true Christians. We need to be true and faithful that we do not become stumblingblocks to others. We need to stand for righteousness, for the just shall be resurrected to life eternal and the unjust to damnation. "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

The peacemakers shall be blessed and called the children of God. We need the way of truth and righteousness, justice, peace and to move toward the permanent rest. Jesus said that if one offended one of these little ones it would be better that a millstone be hanged about his neck and he be drowned in the depth of the sea.

It need not be that offences come. The way of apostacy does not lead to an undisturbed rest. Christ, a man of justice, was often disturbed from His earthly rest. Many great men of God looked forward to a place of undisturbed rest. Through injustice we can become a hinderance to the growth of God's kingdom on earth. Jesus said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest for your souls." Matt. 11:29.

Brother J. F. Marks
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SOWING AND REAPING

Many times we are made to wonder when we sow whether there ever will come a time for reaping. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7-8. This was not only true in Bible times but look around today and we can see it every where, in our daily paper and in the schools it is being fulfilled. There is no way we can change it, but we must daily be on our guard, watching what we sow. If it is good seed, we will be able to reap a good harvest.

In this life we have a seed time. Every one should get his field ready to sow the seed. We must work our ground so the seed will come up, then we must cultivate, finally will come the time of harvest. What about the deeds we do and our influence, whether good or bad? Are we sowing good seed to reap a harvest that will be pleasing unto the One who died for us? We cannot see the seed when it starts to grow and develop but the fruit that cometh forth will show in our lives. We know when lust is conceived it bringeth forth sin, then cometh death. None of us can reap a good harvest without sowing good seed. Let us be very careful what kind of seed we are sowing, for we will harvest just what we sow.

In our homes, today, do we find good literature or is it something that we would not want anyone to see in our homes? Does this take the place of the Word of God? Do we place God first in our lives? Let us be careful so the dear Lord will not say unto us, as we read in Luke 12:20, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

We also read in the Bible, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Let us be careful what treasures we lay up. Are we laying them up in Heaven or are we laying them up here, where thieves can destroy them? Are we more interested in the carnal things of this world, not laying hold of the spiritual things that will give us life? Are you one who thinks you can do almost anything and get by? So many try in this day to cover up their sins. Remember you can not hide anything from God, for He is the discernor of our thoughts and deeds. You may get by in this world but you will meet it in the world beyond.

So many ministers today think anything will do. For the sake of their salary, they feel they must satisfy their people. I often wonder if they don't realize that they will have to meet it some day. Why not be true to the Lord and let come what may? It is worth it. We see daily how these ministers are getting away from the commandments, one by one, soon they won't be observing any of them. Here we see they are blind. Jesus says, "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." If we are called to preach the Gospel, we should stay firm on His Word and let the chips fall where they will. It may hurt but we are told to preach the Word of God.

If we are His children, this is what we will love to hear. If we don't sow to the Spirit we will know it before the harvest. We have read a story of a young man who desired to do some form of mischief toward a farmer who owned a good farm which was free from weeds. One night the young man, after having bought a lot of weed seed, went and sowed it in the farmer's field. Shortly afterwards,

the young man fell in love with the farmer's daughter. As the time went on, this young man married the farmer's daughter. On the day of the wedding, to the surprise of the young man, the farmer gave him the deed to the farm, requiring it to be kept absolutely clean and free from all weeds. As the result of this young man's sinful deed of sowing the weed seed, he spent the rest of his days reaping the sinful harvest by pulling weeds. We just cannot get away from it, we will reap what we sow.

If we walk in the Spirit and are guided by the Spirit we will advance spiritually. We know the fruits of this are love, joy and peace. We won't need to worry about tomorrow, for God will be our guide. We will know if we are sowing to the Spirit for our fruits will all be manifest. We are told, "....by their fruits ye shall know them."

Every one of us will give account of the seed we have sown whether it is good or bad. It will be either God or the Devil, eternal life or eternal destruction. Oh, let us, dear ones, choose wisely. Let us build on the Solid Rock so we can have a firm foundation, something that will stand the storms of life. May our faith never waver,, so our lives will be safely anchored in Christ. Paul was persuaded that nothing could separate him from the love of God, which was in Christ Jesus our Lord. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each of us could say like Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."? May God help us to so live throughout this new year.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE HOPE OF GLORY

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col. 1:26-27.

Throughout the Old Testament, God's plan of salvation had largely been a mystery, except perhaps to a very few who have been faithfully devoted unto God. The Old Testament is summed up in the minds of His followers, "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecc. 12:13b and perhaps unto many New Testament believers the same thought prevails.

The New Testament goes deeper into the inner soul of man. This takes believers closer to God, into His love, His mercy and His

grace. Now believers do not only fear God, but they love Him, they endeavor to please Him because they understand His purpose in the commandments, they have an insight into His Glory, they are near to God through Christ.

"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:26-28a. True believers are all one in God, through Christ. The first thought is to serve the Lord with gladness, all other thoughts and ideas are second. Can we fathom how devoted, how faithful, how obedient, how adoring we must be, to truthfully say "In him we live, and move, and have our being."

According to our text the mystery is no longer hid, now it is made known to His saints, true believers, now "is Christ in you." Dear reader, if this is not true in me, in you, do we have any hope of Glory? There is nothing greater, nothing more gratifying, nothing more comforting than the hope of Glory. Do we realize the grandeur or the riches of the Glory of God? Throughout the Bible, God does not try to hide the riches of His Glory, but rather reveals them unto the reader. It is there for each of us but we must seek after it, cherish it and strive to be a part of it, in order for it to be realized in our lives.

The result of the labors of prophets, ministers, labourers and all who would be faithful is realized through Christ "that we may present every man (and woman) perfect in Christ Jesus." Col. 1:28. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48. Is this too high a goal for me? Do I expect to have hope of Glory, any other way? If Christ is in you this comes naturally. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:14. Christ will come in as sin goes out, then the hope of Glory is certain.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Eph. 1:7. No questions should enter our minds according to this verse. If we properly apply the blood of Christ, His grace is so powerful, so far-reaching, that our sins are forgiven. God hates sin and cannot even look upon it, so if our sins are forgiven we have redemption and the opposite follows, without His blood applied we have no redemption.

"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him." Eph. 1:10. We cannot change God's timing; there is no need to worry about it or to speculate

about when it will be, but to just be ready for Him when His plans are fulfilled. All things are in and through Christ; He came to earth to reveal the Father's plan and without Christ there is no hope of glory. It matters not where we are or what state we are in when "the fulness of time" is come, as long as we are in Christ Jesus.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. As we meditate upon this Scripture we are made to marvel at its unlimited meaning. This was the Apostle Paul's faith or else he could not have survived his many problems and trials. Paul is not a boasting person and I do not believe he made this statement in a boastful manner, but he actually felt that he was in Christ and that Christ would supply whatever strength he needed. There is no question in my mind about Paul's hope of Glory. That hope was devotedly shown through his faith and obedience to Christ and His teachings.

Brother Howard J. Surbey
749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

WOMEN GRINDING AT THE MILL

"Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Matt. 24:41.

Nearly two thousand years have passed away since our Lord used the words in the text, and yet women are grinding at the mill in Palestine today as they did then. One is often led to exclaim, How remarkable it is that these old customs should have continued in the Holy Land for all these centuries without a single change. May it not be that the hand of God is in all this? In these things we have a wonderful proof of the truth of His Word, and now that the ancient customs spoken of in the Bible have been photographed they are slowly passing away. But the evidence is secure. The old-time hand mill is being superseded in many places by the modern mill. In Jerusalem I saw a very good steam mill in operation, with bolting apparatus and everything complete. Twenty years ago it was most difficult to procure bolted flour in traveling through Palestine. Then in every village could be seen women grinding at the mill. I frequently put my hand to the mills in common use and found that it requires considerable strength to do the grinding. Two women sit on the ground with the mill between them,, and putting their hands to the long wooden pin in the outer edge of the upper stone it is turned around while the grain is fed into the hole in the center. So the grinding is done, and as one looks at the operation he is most forcibly reminded that he is witnessing a scene looked upon by Jesus when He was on earth, and that He used this very common occurrence to illustrate one of the important truths which He taught to the world.

Allusion is doubtless had to the millstone then in common use in Palestine when the Lord said: "It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, then that he should offend one of these little ones." I recall how very hard it was for me to understand this Scripture in my boyhood days. The only millstone I then had in mind was the great, heavy burr stones used in my father's mill in Maryland. The upper stone would weigh not less than two tons. It seemed that it would be impossible to hang this immense mass of stone and stucco about a man's neck and cast man and stone into the sea. It was too much for my imagination, and it was set aside as one of the mysteries of the Bible. But when I saw the hand and donkey mills of Palestine the mystery was solved, and the difficulty disappeared. The millstone weighing from fifty to one hundred pounds could easily be hanged about a man's neck and both thrown into the sea. The latter would render all hope of escape impossible, and do the work just as effectually as the heavy stones of my father's mill. The continuance of these ancient customs makes a deep and lasting impression on the mind of the traveler as he journeys in the Land where the Book was written, and if he travels with open eyes and open heart to see and receive the truth, they afford him so many striking evidences that the Book is true.

Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's
The Eternal Verities



ARE YOUR HANDS CLEAN?

Once, in my childhood days, long gone and dead,
I watched a supper table being spread
By busy hands; and eager I said —
Wishing to help—"Please, may I bring the bread?"
Gently, reprovingly, a kind voice said:
"Are your hands clean?"

Oft, when I see the multitude, unfed,
And waiting hungry for living bread,
My heart and hands are eager to be sped
To bring the manna that they may be fed,
But One Voice says, e'en as a voice once said,
"Are your hands clean?"
I only bow my head.

— Author unknown
Sel. Sis. Mildred Skiles

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

A CHILD BECOMES A PROPHET

I SAMUEL 3:1-21

Samuel was the little boy, his mother, Hannah, had promised to give to the Lord. The Lord gave her a son and Hannah kept her promise. She took Samuel to Eli, the priest, at a place called Shiloh. Samuel helped Eli in his work of ministering to the Lord in the temple where the ark was. The ark was a chest containing the two tables of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written. It was covered with pure gold within and without and two winged angels of gold were on top of it. It was very holy to Israel.

It was night. Eli and Samuel had laid down to sleep. Before morning the Lord called, "Samuel." He answered, "Here am I." Samuel thought it was Eli calling. When Eli didn't say anything, Samuel ran to where Eli was sleeping and said, "Here am I, for you called me." Eli said, "I called not; lie down again." So Samuel lay down again. Again the Lord called Samuel. Samuel went to Eli again, who told him to go back to bed. Again, the third time, the Lord called and again Samuel went to Eli. By this time Eli knew that the Lord was talking to Samuel and said to him, "Go, and lie down and if you hear the voice again you shall say, 'Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth.' " So Samuel went and lay down again. The Lord spoke as before and Samuel answered, "Speak, for thy servant heareth." Then the Lord told Samuel that because Eli's sons had sinned and done wickedly and Eli had not restrained them, God would judge the house of Eli. All that had been prophesied about his sons would come to pass. They would both die in one day.

Samuel was afraid to tell Eli about what God had revealed to him but Eli called him and told him not to hide anything from him that God had said. So Samuel told Eli everything. Eli said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth him good."

Samuel grew to manhood and was faithful to God. The Lord was with him and everything that Samuel prophesied came to pass. The Bible says that all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord. The city of Dan is at the northern part of Israel and the city of Beer-sheba is in the south. So all Israel recognized Samuel as a prophet of the Lord.

If you are faithful to God, others cannot help but know it. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Brother Rudy Cover

NEWS ITEMS

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to have services March 22 through March 26. The services will start at 7:30 Wednesday through Friday night.

On Saturday, March 25, there will be a service at 2:00 p.m. with the Lovefeast at 7:00 that evening.

Come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Lord willing, the McClave, Colorado, Congregation plans to hold their Spring Lovefeast, April 1st and 2nd. Services will start at eleven o'clock Saturday morning, April 1st. The Lovefeast will be at 7:30 Saturday evening.

We invite all who can to come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Aurelia Wertz, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Please come worship with us at Dallas Center, Iowa, during our spring meetings. As we are hosts of District Meeting this year, our meetings will be April 8 and 9, with the business meeting on Monday the 10th.

Come if you can. If you can't be with us, please continue to pray that we all will receive a great spiritual benefit from meeting and worshipping together.

Sister Juanita Reed, Cor.

NEW ADDRESS

The complete address of Bro. Kyle Reed, Treasurer of the Relief Board and Secretary of the Torreon Navajo Mission Board, is: R. 1, Box 4, Minburn, Iowa 50167.

The present mailing address of Bro. and Sis. Paul R. Myers is: Mt. Hope Dunkard Brethren Home, R. 3, Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545.



Swallow your pride — it is non-fattening.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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MARCH 15, 1978

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BROKEN TOMBS

In many a heart on Easter Day
There is a tomb;
Close shut by stone and seal of grief,
Enwrapped in gloom.

The birds may sing on Easter Day,
The flowers bloom,
But still no sweet note enters in,
Nor rich perfume.

Dear Christ in heaven, this Easter Day,
From thy far throne,
Send angels down to break the seal,
Roll back the stone!

Be this the Word on Easter Day,
To ope each prison,
The herald of thy victory, —
"The Lord is risen!"

SIMON PETER AND THE FIRST EASTER

Another Easter season is upon us. The world will celebrate this day with the pagan symbols of easter bunnies and brightly colored eggs. The world will only see an opportunity for revelry and feasting; they will miss the whole point of this day. Christians will this day call to mind the resurrection of their living Lord and Saviour.

The meaning of His resurrection and its potential in our lives is beyond our full comprehension. We can not fully understand all that is implied in the death of our Saviour or His Resurrection. We do know it means the triumph of life over death and Christ over Satan. It means we can have hope — there is life beyond the grave — there is life beyond the deadliness of the sins of our lives.

To understand something that is potentially universal in its application is boggling to our minds, but if we can see the same potential fulfilled in one individual life we can better perceive it and even desire the same in our own life. Perhaps the power of the resurrection is expressed on that first Easter occasion best in the life of Simon Peter.

Simon had been among the first of the disciples called by Jesus. He was an impetuous man who though a strong fisherman, used to the storms of the sea, could be routed by a young maiden. So resolute when with Jesus; nevertheless, he proved so weak and helpless when on his own.

Simon makes a good picture of a large portion of mankind today. Although many know the way of righteousness they fail like Peter when tested. Peter denied his Lord thrice before the cock's

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crowding brought to mind his failure to live up to his vows of serving the Lord, even to the giving of his life. He was not brought before any governmental tribunal which had the power of life and death over him. He was before the tribunal of public opinion which seemed more important to him at the moment than his Master. He feared taunts and ridicule if he owned up to being a disciple of Jesus.

Simon denied his Lord by his words and oaths. Many today,, whether indifferent or insincere, deny the Lord by failing to confess Him and by their unrighteous works. All sin is a denial of God. Sin is failure to heed God's Word — a missing of His mark of righteousness. Simon sinned when he denied Jesus. Peter was in the perilous place that sinful mankind is today, waiting to collect the wages of sin — death.

When Peter realized his sin, he wept. He realized he had done the very thing that was the opposite of his boastings, just as Jesus had predicted. Peter could feel very hopeless. He, now, was concerned for his soul's safety for he had alienated himself from the Source of His Spiritual life. The tears of penitence flowed. He cast the scene over and over in his mind, feeling that he was now a traitor. Although in a different way and with different intentions, he was a traitor just like Judas Iscariot. He was sorry. Beyond being sorry, he had a desire to live a life true to his Master. He was repentant.

But would that repentance do him any good? By this time Jesus was fairly well condemned and the next morning the Sanhedrin's decision would be ratified by Pilate — Caesar's friend. Jesus would be nailed to that cross where death would come the next afternoon. Peter would have no opportunity to tell Him that he was sorry.

Jesus would die and be buried in a borrowed grave that could not hold the One who would triumph over death, hell and the grave. Here was Peter's hope fulfilled. Jesus would meet with him in what must have been a very tender scene. Peter was restored, but even better he was empowered by the resurrection of Jesus. No longer would he be the shaking reed; now he would be the bold Apostle who would carry the Gospel to the lost.

Peter had a new life. That new life is yet available to **all** who find themselves in Peter's condition. That resurrection **power** that enabled Peter to be a "stone" not a "reed" is there **for** those who have faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the lost, who are repentant of their sins and are baptized **for** the washing away of the old man, that they may come forth in a **new** (resurrected) life. Peter lived a life of service after he was **forgiven**. We

are also called to live a new life — a Christian life that brings all things under His control.

Have you experienced the forgiveness of your sins and the power of the new birth like Peter?

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

Nearly everyone has at least one friend, one person with whom he or she can communicate freely. The dictionary defines a friend as one who is attached to another by affection, or who entertains for another sentiments of esteem and respect, which lead him to desire his company and to seek to promote his happiness and prosperity. Friends enjoy each other, but they also seek what's best for each other. A true friend is more than just the opposite of an enemy.

Personal contact is vital to a friendship. Without it, the friendship will fade into nothing. At times it is difficult to maintain vital contact, especially when you are trying to reach someone for Christ. Your friendship may be badly needed, like a crutch to lean on, and yet that seems to be when weariness sets in. You get tired of helping and giving, especially when you can't see any response. Jesus doesn't quit giving when we don't respond; He keeps caring for us until we do. Be a friend a little longer and let Jesus tell you when you've done enough.

It may be a one-sided friendship when you are trying to reach someone for Jesus, but so what? It certainly was a one-sided friendship when Jesus gave Himself for us. We have so little to offer Him in return for all He has done for us, but He accepts it, and He loves us anyhow. Let's give ourselves to others as He gave to us. We can't give our lives to save people; Christ is the only one who could do that. But we can give all that we have to give of love, compassion and the good news of salvation.

"I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother." Psa. 35:14. David told us how he had compassion when others were in need. He shared the grief of those who sorrowed. At another time, he needed comfort and didn't get it. "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." Psa. 41:9. David had trusted his friend, they had evidently shared special times together, but now he was David's enemy. A true friend loves at all times (Prov. 17:17), even when trouble comes. A true friendship is not severed that easily.

How do you react when someone needs you? Is it with compassion? When people stray away from God, it is so easy then to withdraw from them, to take away your friendship, simply because you don't agree with the choices they are making. Yet at

such time, your friendship is needed more than ever. Unless the love of God is manifested to them through you, how can they believe that God wants them back when you apparently don't?

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Ecc. 4:9-10. A soul in distress needs your help to get up and go on. It is not the time to turn and run, to leave the one who needs you. If you leave a soul already in trouble, you expose that one to more of the Devil's power. Stay where you are needed and lift that one up to the Lord.

What if Jesus had ignored us when we were down and out? It would surely have been easier for Him to turn away from Calvary than to go there and give His life for us. We had no one to help us, no one to restore us unto God, so He gave all that He had to help us. He didn't turn His back on us even though we're not worthy of His love. Dare we give any less to those who need us to help them come to Christ? Job said, "To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend." If you, a child of God, do not show pity to those in distress, who will?

Sometimes families reject one who goes astray when love is what they should be giving. Knowing a friend still cares even if no one else does may be the only way that one will be drawn back to God. A friend's love is unconditional, unselfish, gentle, honest. A friend is sensitive to another's needs. The three steps to salvation begin with friendship - a person trusts you because you've been a friend, next trusts God as your God, then learns to trust Him personally. Jesus is the true Friend who brings us to God; you be the true friend who brings people to Jesus.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." John 15:13-15. Jesus gave all He had for us. He gave us the privilege of being His friends if we do His will. A servant does not have the privileges that we have.

Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." He was lifted up on a Cross, where He died to make the atonement for our sins. Only love could make this act possible, and it is Jesus' love which draws us to Him. He wants you and I to tell others about the things He has done for us. Why not be a friend and share Jesus with someone today?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE ARK OF THE LORD TAKEN BY THE PHILISTINES

I SAMUEL 4

Samuel was a great prophet of God because he was faithful to God. Eli, the judge of Israel, was old and blind. The sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were wicked men but were in the temple as priests with Eli. God was displeased with Eli because he had not restrained his sons and corrected them as a father should.

Israel was at war with the Philistines and went out against them to battle. Many times God had fought for Israel against their enemies but when the people sinned and disobeyed, He would not help them. This time, those who were in the temple of God, were guilty. They should have been a good example instead of bad. So Israel lost the battle and the Philistines killed about four thousand men. When the elders of Israel heard that Israel had been defeated, they couldn't understand why God had forsaken them but said, "Let us fetch the ark out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it comes among our army, it will save us from the Philistines." They didn't understand that if God refused to help them then the ark couldn't either. They sent for the ark and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, went with it.

When the ark came into the camp of Israel, they shouted with a great shout. They thought surely God would be with them now and would destroy their enemies. When the Philistines heard the noise they understood that the ark was in the camp of Israel and were afraid. They said, "Who shall deliver us out of the hands of these mighty gods?" They believed and thought that the ark was a god or that the two angels of gold were gods. They still remembered hearing how Egypt had been smitten with plagues by Moses and Aaron. But one of the leaders of the Philistines said to their army, "Be strong and quit yourselves like men. It's better to die than be servants of Israel!"

The Philistines fought like mad and Israel was utterly defeated and thirty thousand men were killed. The ark also was captured and Hophni and Phinehas were slain.

A man out of the army came to Shiloh that same day and told of all that happened and the defeat of Israel. All the people of the city cried out and Eli, who was blind, asked what the meaning of the noise was. The man came to where Eli was and told him the army was defeated, his two sons were slain and the ark was taken. When Eli heard that the ark of the Lord was taken, it was too much for him and he fell over backward and broke his neck and died. Eli was ninety-eight years old and he had judged Israel forty years.

Israel had to learn the hard way that God expects obedience. If we expect God to bless us, we must obey Him. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Brother Rudy Cover

TREASURES OF THE SNOW

"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?" Job 38:22a.

On January 26th and 27th, God emptied his treasure chest of snow. He let it fall on the earth, that man could once more behold His wondrous work of love and mercy. After the snow storm, there was a great calm, out of this, the reflection of beauty. When the sunbeams arrived early on Saturday morning they enhanced the radiance of the diamonds glistening in the snow. How beautiful! The jasper, sapphire, emerald, topaz and amethyst, all a reflection of God's love. Only He could create such splendor for us to enjoy.

The treasures of the snow are lingering with us, attracting every child, young person and the elderly to view this display of God's great power. How it thrills our hearts to know He is in His Heaven attracting our attention to His love and concern for mankind, speaking to us through His treasures in the snow.

Sister Sylvia E. Parker
5290 W. St. Rt. 718, Troy, Ohio 45373

AM I GUILTY OF ROBBERY?

We should each ask ourself this question, "Am I guilty of robbery?" We don't have to rob a bank or shoplift in a store to be a robber, but there are many ways in which we can rob God.

In Malachi 3:8 we read, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." Yes, we can rob God by not giving as we are blessed. We read in Genesis 28:22, "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." I believe that can be a guideline to go by, giving the tenth, but I believe we should even exceed that as we are blessed. No, not to be seen or praised of man, or even because we just think we ought to. It's better to give a dollar bill willfully than twenty-five dollars with a grudge. Matt. 6:1 says, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." We can buy all kinds of unnecessary items for ourselves and our homes, so why can't we give to the Lord? We are robbing God if we do not give as we are blessed.

I believe we also can rob God by giving to the wrong places. Yes, we hear many radio preachers asking for money and many people send much to them. But are they bringing the true doctrine of Jesus Christ? Do they preach the commandments of God, such as feet washing and the Lord's Supper? Jesus didn't say unto Peter

without reason, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." John 13:8b. There are many other commandments of God they do not teach because so many feel they are no longer necessary. They say the women's head covering is no longer necessary, but my Bible didn't change. It still says in I Cor. 11:5-6, "But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." If they do not believe in these things, if they do not bring the full gospel, we are actually robbing God by sending our money to such. So we must be very careful in this line that we don't give to the wrong cause.

We not only rob God moneywise, but there are many ways in which we can rob Him. In I Thess. 5:16 we read, "Rejoice evermore." Do we rejoice in our Christian walk of life as we should? If we wouldn't have anything to rejoice about it would be different, but we do. We should rejoice that Christ was willing to shed His blood for us. After all, what are we but pieces of clay that the Lord formed together. Why should He want to bother with us? Because He loves us. That is reason alone why we can rejoice evermore. We should rejoice because we can worship with freedom. People in some countries must worship in secret for fear of the government. God deserves all praise. We rob God, if we praise Him not.

We rob God by praising man instead. People sometimes lift man so high that his fall is great. Don't get me wrong; if a minister brings a wonderful sermon, I feel we should commend him in that he was willing to let the Lord use him. But praise to man can be overdone. Elvis Presley was a great man in the world's eyes. Since he died, they have made different records about him. One is called "The King is Gone." That record sold one million copies within a week of its release. Newspapers announcing his death also have become collectors items, some selling for more than twenty-five dollars. I was told they interviewed people on television about whether they thought Elvis was a Christian. One man said "Yes, he sang some gospel songs." Many of the people they interviewed said yes he was. They weren't Christians themselves; that's why they would say such a thing. If he wasn't born again, if he didn't repent, we all know his destiny. He was no different than any other man, in the sense that he will stand before the great Judge. His popularity in this life can't save him, neither can anyone else's. It takes the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us, make us whole and to save us. Let's not be praising man and robbing God.

We rob God by failing to talk to Him. The Word says, "Pray with-

out ceasing." How much time do we spend on our knees in prayer, in our secret closets? II Chron. 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name,, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Matt. 6:6, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." These are just a few verses on prayer. The Bible is full of them. How would our relationship be, if we wouldn't talk to our wife day after day? It would be poor, would it not? It seems sometimes we think just because God is not here in person we may fail to talk to Him, but He can hear us as if He were here in person. Daniel talked to God three times a day even if there was punishment for it. Did it pay him to pray? It sure did. Likewise, it pays us to pray. Are we robbing Him?

We can rob God by wasting our time; by going places and doing things that we ought not to do. We shouldn't, I feel, go anywhere we couldn't take Jesus along. Let's remember His all-seeing eye is watching us always. We can waste time by always running other people down when we could be using the time to help build them up.

In Psalms 90:12, we read, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Ecc. 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Eph. 5:15-16, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Col. 4:5, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

So, am I guilty of robbery to the extent that I must be placed in prison for eternity? Let's each ask ourselves this. If we are guilty of robbery, let's confess to God, ask His forgiveness and get on the right track now while we still have the time and opportunity. Instead of being robbers, let's be givers. Give our time to the Lord. Give our all in serving Him. Give for the cause of others. So we can say, "None of self and all of thee."

In Christian Love
Brother Ray Stuber
R.D. 1, Box 233, Lititz, Pa. 17543



The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none. — Carlyle.

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD

We have once more come to the Easter season, and it will be well for us to cease from our regular occupations and think what Easter means to us, and whether we get out of it the good that we should. It would be well for us to read once in a while Paul's writing about the resurrection in the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians. He put much into this chapter which does not have the influence over us and our lives that it should have.

If it were not for the fact of the resurrection there would be nothing but thick darkness ahead; without this hope of being partakers in the first resurrection we should be of all men most miserable, for then we could have no hope of anything better farther on.

But death must precede the resurrection. And it is not only the physical death that we must die. We must die to the things to which Jesus was ever dead. We can do no better than to think what these things are. The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye and the pride of life had no part in him, for he had come into the world to show men how to live above these things. And how many who profess to be his followers can truthfully say that they are dead to the things to which he was dead, and alive unto God? And if they cannot truthfully say they are dead unto these things, what hope have they, what promise?

If we expect to live with him hereafter as he has given us the privileges of doing, we must live according to his directions while we are in this life. If we fail so to live, will our lives have been worth the living? Or would it have been better for us if we had never been born? So much of our time we spend in forgetfulness of the really important issues of life. So many spend their time in seeking to gain things that are not at all necessary but that are truly harmful to them here and will be their undoing hereafter.

There is so much to look forward to for enjoyment in the world to come. If we walk as our Master walked, if we do as he commanded us to do, then we may await our translation with joy and not with fear. There are good things here, our work, our friends. But how much better things await us over there. The friends will be there, we shall have work to do there, pleasure that will never pall, joys that will never fail. And the dread enemies of men here will not enter there; for there shall be no more death, no more pain or sorrow; all tears will be wiped away. And greatest joy of all, Jesus will be there, and our Father will be there.

There is denial of self here, but no denial of anything that makes for our present health or true happiness: the cross is easy and the

burden is light to those who, weary and heavy laden, seek the Master that they may find rest. If we would be happy over there we must deny ourselves and take up our cross. The idea of self-denial is not a popular one these days, for men are lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, and they are seeking present enjoyment rather than eternal happiness at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

This is the season of newly-awakening life in nature. The old is done away and the new comes forth in all its beauty. And this should remind us of the change that shall take place with us when this vile body becomes a glorious body, and when this corruptible body puts on incorruption.

The time for going hence cannot be very far from any one of us, and to many it is much nearer than we think. And even if we knew that we should have ten or twenty years more to live, wouldn't it be well for us to think more of what the resurrection of Jesus means to the world? Do we have a real and living faith in the New Testament doctrine of death and the resurrection? If not, what do we have? What can take the place of this hope?

We may gain much here, but when it is weighed in the balances of heaven what does it amount to? The whole world is not worth a man's soul, and yet how many souls are lost in order to gain a very small part of the world.

Brethren, we are in the last times. Yet we do not know what generation will live to see the coming of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. And it does not matter, for those who remain alive at his coming shall not precede those who sleep in him — they will all be together with him. Would that the Lord would so touch our hearts at this time that we should seek more earnestly to be obedient unto him in all that he has commanded. There can be no joyous resurrection for the unsaved, and salvation is to be gained only through obedience to him who is the way, the truth, and the life.

May we live above the world and show the way to a better home prepared for all who love his appearing.

Selected from April 15, 1925 issue
of Bible Monitor



In religion faith does not spring out of feeling, but feeling out of faith. The less we feel the more we should trust. We cannot feel right till we have believed. — Bonar.

I TRUST YOU NOW, LORD

Here I am now, Lord,
I give myself to Thee,
I've been walking in darkness
For a long time with a heavy load;
I think I'm sinking now, Lord,
Help me to build up again to walk for Thee.
I never will touch this earthly treasure again;
I'll never grieve for earthly things again;
I am willing to go with You all the way
By trusting You, Lord.

Chorus:

Yes, I never knew how much
You cared for me,
But I know I'll make it
By trusting You.
Yes, I was wrong way deep inside;
Forgive me for all that I did
And I'll go all the way with You.
I guess I wasn't strong enough,
But now that I know that You're with me,
I'm on my way home
Towards the Golden Gate.
I know I can make it through again by trusting You,
Even though I struggle, I'll still follow You.
With the tip of Your hand I shall be lifted from here;
By trusting You, I'll be with You forever more,
And ever throughout eternity.
But till then, I didn't know
You loved me so much.

Donald Barboan

DOES JESUS CARE?

In I Peter 5:7 we read, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I think of things that are hard to bear when I stop to think of Jesus and how much He suffered for you and me. He hanged on that cruel cross just to redeem you and me. He did this willingly because He cared so much for each of us. Do we care for Him? Are we willing to give Him our whole heart or do we still want a part of this sinful world? I am sure if that is the way we feel, we don't belong to the Blessed One who was so willing to die for us. Are we willing just to suffer a little for Him, when He gave so much for us, all because of the great love He had for us.

When we are in sorrow and we feel we can't go on, Jesus stands near to help. He has promised He will never forsake us. I know He cared when my heart grieved.

Do you realize you won't win a crown if you don't deserve it? You must work for Jesus, then you will be rewarded with a home in Heaven. Put on the whole armor and go forth to do His will. Many are called but few are chosen. Let us take all the time we can spare and go out and win souls for Him. Let us labour every day for the Lord. When Jesus comes where will we be found? Will we be ready and waiting with our lamps all burning bright or will we hear, "Depart, I never knew you." To be so close to the gate but not able to enter in surely will be a very sad day. I pray this will not be our lot. Will our names be recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life or are we like those that are unconcerned about their soul's salvation.

Dear ones, what excuse can you give to the Lord for not serving him? Do you say you have a good excuse, because you once loved Him and served Him? Now you are back out in this world of sin. Will you stop and think? Do you feel He can accept that excuse? I don't think any excuse will be able to get you admitted through that Pearly Gate. You have to work to earn a Home with Christ, our Lord.

Oh, let us work while we have time, for we don't know if this is our last day. Would you want to live in this sinful world if there were no Christians in it? I don't think anyone of us would. Then why don't you go out and work to see that more are able to know Him? We could make our world here a better place. Our Heavenly Father must be grieved when He sees those who were dear to Him go back into sin.

Let us humble ourselves before our Lord, let us cast our cares on Him for He careth for them that are His. The greatest gift God gave to man was His Son. Where would you be if this had not happened. There would be no hope for a home in Heaven. So now that we have been redeemed, let us keep our eyes on that Heavenly Home. Many will not see another year here, so we must be on our guard every minute, for Satan is trying to win more souls.

Jesus is our life. Are you willing to have Him lead you along this uneven journey here below? If you are, then give Him your heart and work while you have time. Do you trust Him to care for you?

In this day Satan tries to take over each of our lives and to destroy all of God's works. Now if you belong to Christ, don't give in to Satan. He will try very hard to get you to fall. If one is not a sincere worker, Satan will surely win. If any are weak among us, let us try to do all we can for them. He knows we have come out from the world of which he is ruler. He knows we have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus, who brought that wonderful message

of Salvation which is the greatest story ever told.

If we walk in the light and have fellowship one with another it is sure to lead us safely home. Let us not stumble but keep the cross always in view. He cares so much that He will help us till we reach that beautiful Home. Let us put our life in His hands and we need never fear, for He cares for His own. When we see Him face-to-face, that will be a happy day.

Sister E. M. Alltus

MARRIAGE

SNYDER - ARGO

Sis. Ruth Snyder, daughter of Bro. and Sis. James Snyder, Gettysburg, Ohio, and Barry Argo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Argo, Bradford, Ohio were united in marriage June 25, 1977 at Barry's cousins in Greenville, Ohio. Elder Roy D. Skiles of the Old German Baptist Brethren performed the ceremony. The couple are making their home at 6089 Hillgrove-Southern Rd., Greenville, Ohio 45331.

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS

All Queries, Reports of Committees and Reports of Boards should be in my hands by April 15, 1978.

Hayes Reed, Writing Clerk of General Conference
1433 Overholtzer Drive, Modesto, Calif. 95355

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans, the Lord willing, for our Spring Lovefeast to be April 15 and 16.

Saturday morning meeting begins at eleven o'clock, Saturday afternoon at two o'clock. Lovefeast, proper, Saturday evening. Services on Sunday.

Also our revival will begin May 24th and run through June 4th. Bro. Paul Reed will be our evangelist. Come enjoy these services with us.

Sister Ruth Kleinhen, Cor.

CORRECTION

Inadvertantly a mistake was made in the recent obituary of Bro. Norman Keeney, Sr. The list of survivors should have read: His wife, Elsie (Godfrey) Keeney and six children survive. Sis. Marguerite Marks, R. 1, Felton, Pennsylvania; Elva Schildt, R. 1, Taneytown, Maryland; Sis. Dorothy Marks, R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania; Bro. Kenneth Keeney, R. 2, Seven Valley, Pennsylvania; Bro. Laverne Keeney, R. 3, Lititz, Pennsylvania, and Bro. Norman Keeney, Jr., R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania; nineteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. Also surviving are two brothers, Eli Keeney, Greensburg, Pennsylvania and Charles Keeney, R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania and one sister, Naomi Fuhman, R. 3, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL

- April 2 — The Witness of the Father. John 5:30-47.
 April 9 — That Prophet. John 6:1-14.
 April 16 — The Work of God. John 6:15-29.
 April 23 — The Bread from Heaven. John 6:30-51.
 April 30 — The Spoken Word. John 6:52-71.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) What greater witness did Jesus have than John? John 5:37.
- (2) What did Moses write of Christ that Jesus referred to in John 5:46? Deut. 18:15, 18; Gen. 3:15.
- (3) Why were the people convinced that Jesus was "that prophet that should come into the world"? John 6:14, 26.
- (4) What was the work of God that Jesus had for the world? John 6:29.
- (5) Who was the bread from heaven? John 6:33, 35.
- (6) How can we eat the flesh and blood of Christ? John 6:57.



TOO BUSY

Too busy to read the Bible
 Too busy to wait and pray;
 Too busy to speak out kindly
 To someone by the way!
 Too busy to care and struggle,
 To think of the life to come;
 Too busy building mansions here
 To plan for that heavenly home.

Too busy to help a brother
 Who faces the winter blast;
 Too busy to share this burden
 When self in the balance is cast!
 Too busy for all that is holy;
 On earth, beneath the sky;
 Too busy to serve the Master,
 But — not too busy to die!

Selected by Sis. Mildred Skiles

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR APRIL, 1978

COUNSEL

Memory Verse: Job 38:1 & 2

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

Sat. 1-Job 37:1-24

Memory Verse: Job 42:3

Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

Sun. 2-Job 38:1-21

Mon. 3-Job 38:22-41

Tues. 4-Job 39:1-30

Wed. 5-Job 40:1-24

Thur. 6-Job 41:1-34

Fri. 7-Job 42:1-17

Sat. 8-Psa. 1:1-6

Memory Verse: Psa. 1:1

Blessed is the men that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Sun. 9-Psa. 2:1-12

Mon. 10-Psa. 5:1-12

Tues. 11-Psa. 13:1-6

Wed. 12-Psa. 14:1-7

Thur. 13-Psa. 16:1-11

Fri. 14-Psa. 20:1-9

Sat. 15-Psa. 31:1-24

Memory Verse: Psa. 16:7

I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

Sun. 16-Psa. 33:1-22

Mon. 17-Psa. 55:1-23

Tues. 18-Psa. 64:1-10

Wed. 19-Psa. 71:1-24

Thur. 20-Psa. 73:1-28

Fri. 21-Psa. 81:1-16

Sat. 22-Psa. 83:1-18

Memory Verse: Psa. 33:11

The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Sun. 23-Psa. 106:1-23

Mon. 24-Psa. 106:24-48

Tues. 25-Psa. 107:1-22

Wed. 26-Psa. 107:23-43

Thur. 27-Psa. 119:17-32

Fri. 28-Prov. 1:1-33

Sat. 29-Prov. 8:1-36

Memory Verse: Psa. 73:24

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Sun. 30-Prov. 1:1-31

Memory Verses: Prov. 1:5

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a men of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Memory Verse: Prov. 11:14

Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in multitude of counselors there is safety.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

APRIL 1, 1978

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THERE IS NEVER A CROSS SO HEAVY

There is never a cross so heavy
But the nail-scarred hands are there
Outstretched in tender compassion
The burden to help us bear.
There is never a heart so broken,
But the loving Lord can heal,
The heart that was pierced on Calvary
Doth still for His loved ones feel.

There is never a life so darkened,
So helpless and unblessed,
But may be filled with the light of God
And enter His promised rest.
There is never a sin or sorrow,
There is never a care or loss,
But that we may bring to Jesus
And leave at the foot of the cross.

— Selected by Sister Ruth M. Snyder

OUR HERITAGE

As a people of God we have a rich heritage. Our forefathers have left us a wonderful legacy. It is not only a legacy of names and dates but of belief and practice as well. Our past enriches our lives not only as history that informs but also teaches us how to live in our own day.

The heritage of the Brethren goes beyond the organization, at Schwarzenau, to the early years of the Christian Church. In the years after the ascension of Jesus, the Church began putting into practice the teachings She had received from Her Lord. These are teachings of the New Testament. The Brethren, who believe and try to practice the New Testament precepts, are followers of these early Christians who were following Jesus.

As the Church drifted from these teachings, she fell into one grievous error after another. Only a scattered few remained who held to the true practice of God's Word and they were often severely persecuted. The Reformation instituted by Luther, Calvin, Knox and others came far short of re-establishing Christianity upon the Word of God. The settled for compromise rather than striving for a Church built upon the New Testament.

Alexander Mack and seven other devout souls were not satisfied with the halfway measures of these earlier reformers. After an intense study of the Bible, they could find no organized body which carried out Christ's teachings, so prayerfully and carefully they established such a body. This group grew spiritually but was severely persecuted. Finally most of them emigrated to the New World, where they were free to practice their religious beliefs.

As the Brethren prospered in the New World the Church's

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boundaries were rapidly pushed westward and southward from Germantown. The leaders watched over the Spiritual lives of the members, being sure the New Testament doctrines were being continued. The annual meeting or general conference of the Brethren was established by the middle of the eighteenth century. As problems arose, Scriptural solutions were searched for, so the Church would not be swayed from her mooring, the Word of God.

All continued fairly well until the closing decades of the nineteenth century when prosperity, worldly wisdom and a loss of respect for the authority of the Church brought schism. These conditions continued until a new reformation was needed by the mid-1920's. Again men were needed who would not settle for compromise or a half-hearted following of God's commands. Brethren and Sisters had to take the serious step of organizing a body where the doctrines practiced by the early Christians and by the Brethren at Schwarzenau could be continued.

This very condensed digest of Brethren History should help us to see the heritage these Brethren of old have left for you and I today. They have left us a heritage of courage, pursuit and sharing.

These Brethren were brave men and women. Theirs was not the bravery of the carnal battlefield but the bravery needed to stand for the Truth. They were committed to the Bible as the Word of God so they stood even when few in number. Alexander Mack and his associates paid a dear price in choosing this course. They forfeited their quiet lives and peaceful homes as they were driven from place to place in Europe, finally braving the storms and privations of the difficult ocean voyage to Pennsylvania. Theirs was not a trip of a few hours but a journey lasting several weeks subject to storms, death and piracy.

The Brethren in their new land showed their courage not only in the hardships of establishing their new homes but in missionary journeys among the isolated members and to those interested in hearing the Word. Elders like John Kline and George Wolfe spent most of their lives traveling, preaching and organizing new congregations. They faced many dangers as they traveled by horseback or afoot, yet they went with no guaranteed wage. The Brethren were brave when they stood for the Word of God when it was out of favor with their neighbors or the government. Elder Christopher Sauer paid dearly financially and in personal abuse during the Revolutionary War because of his non-resistance stand.

The Brethren have left us a heritage of pursuit. They pursued the Truth. Whatever the problem and the circumstance, there has been an effort to find a Biblical answer. In their pursuit of the doctrines of the Bible they have established specific rules to help carry out

the ordinances and the teachings on honesty, modesty and temperance, so their pursuit of these doctrines would not be in vain. They have sought a safe place to stand and when they have found it, they have been determined to be very careful that they would not slip from it. The best doctrine in the world is of little value if it is not practiced.

The Brethren have left us a heritage of sharing. They were interested in the needs of each other. They were willing to give of their own meager living that their fellow members or neighbors could be provided for. They provided all the relief that was necessary.

Their personal concern was not limited to men's natural needs. The Brethren were willing to face many hardships to carry the Word out to the lost and the isolated. Through storms, high waters and heat they went. They had the Word upon which the Church was organized and they believed it enough, that they would face hardship to take it to others.

These Brethren have left us a great heritage. Their history is full of their courage, pursuit and sharing. Is it just a heritage - an interesting historical record - or is it a lesson and encouragement to you? Will this heritage be continued for the next generation? It is up to you.

NO GOD; NO PEACE

I have a little clipping which is an eye-catching play on words: "No God - No Peace; Know God - Know Peace." In a very few words, it expresses the truth that without God, there is no peace, but with Him, there is complete peace. In this day and age, peace seems to be an elusive thing, something that people seek but never find. When you seek the Lord, only then will you find genuine peace, that special peace in your heart where it counts.

To know God means more than to just know He exists. It means more than to recognize Him as the Creator of the universe. When you know someone, you have a personal relationship with that person. When you know God, you have a personal relationship with Him. You don't depend on someone else's faith in Him; you have faith in God yourself. You are aware of His will for your life and you try to live accordingly because you desire to please Him. This is knowing God.

Without really knowing God, you cannot know peace. When you know God, you know that your salvation is through His Son, Jesus Christ. Peace then is given through Christ. This is not anything ordinary, but is such that it passes all understanding. "And the

peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7. Christ's peace cannot be described, but its presence can be felt by the one who has it and it can be seen by those who observe. The opposite of peace is turmoil. When turmoil is present, Christ and His peace are absent.

"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Isa. 57:20-21. "But the way of transgressors is hard." Prov. 13:15b. If you were never deeply involved in sin, it may be hard for you to comprehend the turmoil of the wicked, but their hearts are continually restless. They drive themselves, indulging in everything they can think of to "have a good time," trying in vain to satisfy the longing within. They may not think their way is hard, but until Christ comes into their hearts, they don't know what peace is.

Our peace begins when we accept Christ as our Savior and Lord. He promised us peace and He alone can give it. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5:1. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27. We are given peace with God through Christ and also peace in our everyday lives. There are many things which can trouble us, but because of Jesus, we can still have peace.

Speaking of wisdom - "Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." Prov. 3:17. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Prov. 9:10a. A wise person is at peace because he knows he is doing that which is right. He seeks to do that which is right because he fears the Lord. He knows the Lord well enough to realize that there is no peace in a sin-filled life. When you fear the Lord, you want to please Him. This is the beginning of the wisdom which brings you peace.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isa. 26:6. "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Psa. 4:8. "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." Prov. 16:7. It is a real blessing to lie down and be able to sleep peacefully. It is a real blessing to be at peace with everyone, including your enemies. But especially, it is good to trust the Lord completely, to know in your heart that when you keep looking to Him, He will keep you in perfect, blessed peace.

If you know God, you will know Jesus. If you know Jesus, you will know His peace. If you know His peace, you will be free of

turmoil within even if everything around you is unending confusion. Satan will try to destroy your peace by getting you to doubt God's promises to you. If you live in fear of what he (Satan) can do, if you doubt God, your peace will be gone. "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." II Thess. 3:3. God has promised to keep you, He is able to keep you and He will keep you. Fear Him, not circumstances or things, you can't control.

"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off." Ps. 37:37-38. If you have peace with God and walk with Him on this earth, you will have peace for all eternity. If you live in sin here, separated from God, you will be separated from Him for all eternity. If you really know God, you will know peace, but if you have no God, you will have no peace. Which is it for you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

DO YOU FEEL THE BIBLE IS SACRED TO YOU?

Many times when I read religious pieces published by people claiming to belong to the Lord, I receive the impression that to some people the Word of God, the precious Bible, is not so important. It seems they feel it has become a little out of date, or have the idea, which they express in their writings, that Bible teachings are not put there for us to obey today.

If we love the Lord, as the Apostle Paul did, I am sure we will not find anything in the Blessed Word that is not essential - Feet-washing, Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, Salutation of the Holy Kiss, Anointing the sick. By observing these things that are commanded, we grow spiritually. We don't want to be weak Christians. We must grow by following Him so we will become more like Christ. Let us be among those who are willing to follow all the way.

Let us take the prayer veil. Some writers say it was just a custom then and we don't have to observe it today. They say it was only given by man. If you are familiar with the Word of God, you will know as you study these passages, that God inspired the Apostle Paul to write. Paul was directed by the Holy Spirit in his writing. If it were not for God's children to observe or practice today, we would not see it in the Holy Scriptures. Concerning the prayer veil some say the hair is given for the prayer covering. Did you ever stop to think if this were true then what about the man who is to have his head uncovered. If he prays, he will have to shave his head every

time he offers a prayer or if some one else is praying. So here you can see that your hair is just a natural covering.

Have you been truly born again by baptism as recorded in Matthew 28:19? We are buried in the likeness of his death, which we know occurred when He bowed His head forward. So we kneel in humble submission to the will of the Father and are baptized into the name of the Father which is in Heaven and into the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and into the name of the Holy Spirit. We see when Jesus was baptized that He set the example for His children to follow. He was baptized into the name of the Father, who at that time was in Heaven, and into the name of His Son, who was in the water being baptized by John, and into the name of the Holy Spirit who descended like a dove and lighted upon Him, when He came up out of the water. This is the way we are to be born with Christ in baptism. I don't find anywhere that He commanded us to be baptized backward or anywhere that He says one word about single immersion.

If we do the things that please our Lord, we are laying up treasures on this journey of life. If we work daily to please our Blessed Saviour we will have a reward coming. But we can't take just the passages of Scripture that please us; we must take all of His teachings. If we leave out just one, we are guilty of all. Let us be very careful.

When I was in school, I often wondered, when girls, who belonged to other denominations, would come home with us for the night, what influence we might have had on their lives. My parents were very devoted Christians. Every night, before we retired, father would read a scripture and all knelt in prayer. We always had the family altar. Often father would explain why we wore the covering in the time of prayer. I imagine it was strange to those who were brought up in a different denomination, but we were respected by them. The more I learn of the Precious Word, the more I realize just how important it is to follow Him and obey all the commands.

Many times I have been in other Sunday Schools with thirty members or more and I was the only one who had a prayer veil on. What is wrong? Once I had a chance to go to a Ladies Aid. When lunch was ready they asked me to give thanks for the meal, because I was the only one present with a prayer veil on. I have been made to think alot about this. Do they pray with their heads uncovered?

If we are true to our Lord, we must lay aside the world and put our trust in Christ, then we will be willing to follow all His Word.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE ARK OF THE LORD IN AN IDOL TEMPLE

I SAMUEL 5

The Philistines captured the ark of God from the land of Israel. The Philistines worshipped an idol called, "Dagon," This idol was in a large temple in the city of Ashdod where people could come and worship. Dagon was made with a head like a man and a body like a fish. It must have been a terrible thing to look at. The Philistines brought the ark of the Lord into the temple of Dagon. What do you suppose happened?

When the Philistines got up early the next morning, Dagon had fallen on his face to the earth before the ark of the Lord. The Philistines set Dagon back up again as he was before. The next morning when they went to the temple Dagon was in worse shape than he was before. This time Dagon had fallen down but both his head and his hands were cut off from hitting the threshold of the door of the temple. The priests and the people were so terrified that years later they wouldn't step on the threshold of the door to the temple of Dagon.

The Lord was angry at the Philistines for taking the ark and placing it in an idol temple. Because of this the Lord destroyed many of the Philistines and afflicted them with tumors, called emerods. Then the men of Ashdod said, "The ark of the Lord shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us." So they sent for the great men of the Philistines and asked, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" They decided to send the ark to another Philistine city, Gath, but when they carried it there the same thing happened to the people of Gath. Then they sent the ark to Ekron. The people of Ekron didn't like this at all. They sent for the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of Israel and let it go again to their land. We don't want it! Take it away!" Then the Lord caused a deadly destruction throughout all the city and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

The ark of the Lord which had been a blessing to Israel was a curse to the Philistines. They had something that they didn't know what to do with. They were not God's people and could never be blessed of God as long as they worshipped an idol.

God allowed Israel to be defeated by the Philistines and the ark taken because they were disobedient to Him. Can we expect God to bless us when we want to have our own way? God does not want us to be a mixture of good and bad. He wants us to be pure and holy and only to worship Him.

Brother Rudy Cover

CONTRACEPTIVES AND CHRISTIANS

"Raising happy and healthy children is the supreme achievement and the most profound joy that a married couple can desire. The generally accepted ideal is to have as many children to bless the marriage as can be brought up at the accepted standard of living. If every child will feel wanted and loved from the beginning and the mother can enjoy them in health and reasonable security, there is no arbitrary limit that can be set on the number of children a family should have." The preceding is quoted from, "A Doctor's Marital Guide for Patients" by Bernard R. Greenblat, B.S., M.D., which, by the way, is not a Christian publication. Now let's take a look at what the Bible says on this subject.

God commanded Noah and his sons in Genesis 9:1 to "be fruitful and multiply." And His promise to Abraham in Genesis 13:16 was, "And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth..." And in Genesis 15:5 He said, "... tell the stars, if thou be able to number them... so shall thy seed be." In Bible times a barren womb was undesirable, as is evidenced by Sarah, Rachel, Monoah's wife, Hanna, and Elisabeth. But when God opened their wombs, what great men those babes grew up to be!

Small families, or no children at all, are becoming a trend of this modern day. Several decades ago, large families were the rule. Just a generation ago in the United States, the average American family contained four members; today it's down to less than three and falling. Some may say it's because children are too expensive these days, but why is this? Mainly because the parents today think they must provide so many temporal pleasures for their children, including the best of toys, the latest fashions in clothing, a college education, and so forth. Statistics tell us that Americans have more buying power now than ever before. Think of the parents who raised their families during the depression years. It took all they could get to keep the family fed and clothed. But we are assured in Psalms 37:25, "... yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Some couples decide to have no children, and whether they realize it or not, it's usually for selfish reasons. Some don't want to be bothered, others wish to lavish their income on themselves or to travel extensively. And some women would rather pursue a career than work at motherhood. A few years ago, columnist Ann Landers asked this question of her readers: "If you had it to do over again, would you have children?" A staggering seventy percent of those who responded said, "NO."

Here are some excerpts from an editorial which appeared in the Ephrata Review:

The old American concept about big families (on the farm the extra help was essential), the tradition that children were a joy and that it's the normal duty of adults to bring up children and make a better world for them, is disappearing.

In place of it, there's more self-indulgence, selfishness, more freedom, movement, and refusal to be tied to homelife — especially among United States women, who are constantly brainwashed these days by media and progressives to get out of the home and abandon motherhood and homemaker.

The trend, which is worldwide, must some day reverse itself. What adults miss in not having children is the essence of life itself. And those who refuse marriage because it will temporarily limit self-indulgence and freedom from responsibilities should ponder the question how they came into the world. They are not repaying parents, country or society for a life and civilization they exploit.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalm 127:3. Webster says reward usually refers to something given in recompense for a good deed, for merit, and so forth. Usually one does not refuse a reward. Why should we refuse God's reward, the fruit of the womb? "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..." James 1:17. Surely the gift of a loving child is a gift from above.

When praying the Lord's prayer we say, "Thy will be done." Then why, if it's His will we should have another child, do we think we can't afford another one right now, or we don't want children so close, or our family is large enough? It's amazing the thoughts the Devil can put into our heads. And with modern man-made birth control methods, it's very easy to fall into the trap the Devil has prepared. I can see him rubbing his hands with glee as he thinks of Christian families growing smaller and smaller. If there are fewer children brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, naturally there will be a smaller, future Church.

Let's look at this from another angle. If the Devil steals away one of a family of five, there can still be four to carry on for the Lord; but one from a family of one leaves no one. Psalm 127:4-5 says, "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." A warrior or hunter would not feel prepared to set out on an expedition unless he had his quiver full of arrows; likewise, happy is the man that hath his quiver full of children. "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers." Prov. 17:6.

Jesus himself said in Matt. 19:14, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Psalm 28:3, "Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table." If we think of a fruitful vine in our garden, it is one which produces abundantly. The olive plant is characteristic of the Mediterranean landscape. So we see children should be typical of a Christian marriage and should help identify us as a happy family. After all, the family was instituted by God.

Our bodies, as the temple of the Lord, were not intended to be subjected to man-made forms of birth control. The Lord gives and takes away. Is He not the giver of all good gifts? I'm sure none of us would agree to abortion or suicide. There's the story of the woman who went to her doctor asking for an abortion. She had her first child sitting on her lap. The doctor said, "Let's do it this way," as he appeared with an axe as if to kill the toddler. Whereupon the mother shouted, "Murderer!" The doctor replied, "That's exactly what I'd be if I took the life within you." Abortion and suicide are man's ways of ending life; contraceptives prevent it from beginning. Where do we draw the line? I can't help but feel that in all three cases we would be interfering with a very sacred area of God's domain. Let's put our trust and faith in God and let Him be Lord of our lives.

In Christian Love,
Sister Delores Stuber
R.D. 1, Box 233, Lititz, Pa. 17543

THE DEVIL'S CONVENTION

Those In Attendance Included

Malice, Envy, Pride, Greed, Sinful Pleasures, and so forth

"Now my good imps, what have you done today to weaken the Church of God?"

"We have been very busy today, making empty seats in Churches," began one.

"Nothing could please me better," answered their king.

"I persuaded one man that he had a headache and kept him from a sermon that might have changed his whole life," said one.

"I induced one good man to slip to his store and fix up his books," said another.

"Good!" said the king. "He'll soon give up the Sabbath altogether."

"I was able to get one pure young man to use tobacco, attend the movies, dances, card parties, and so forth, also led him to visit some old friends," said one imp.

"Halleluja!" roared Satan. "Work all you can, and stir up sinners to visit Christian people on Sunday and make them think they must stay at home and entertain them. And instead of a plain simple dinner Sunday, make people think they must have something extra so the servant or some of the family will have to stay away from Church and Sunday School. You can work this on people who think they are real devoted."

"And I made several poor women who were hungry for God's Word stay at home to repine over their trials. I just said to them, 'Oh, these well-to-do people don't care for you; you can't wear fine clothes, so I wouldn't go where I was looked down upon.'"

"That is one of the best ways to cheat poor people out of Heaven that I know of," answered the king with approval.

"I induced a good many men and women to believe they were not strong enough to attend Church," said one called "indifference." "Of course, all of these folks will be at their business on Monday, even if they feel worse. But they could not go to church when they have the least ailment, so I made them believe they couldn't go to Church unless they were perfectly well."

"Very Good," said Satan, with a sulphurous grin, "a Sunday headache is one of the best excuses for Church absence."

"I am the weather imp," said one fellow. "I go around making people believe it is going to rain, or that it is too cold, too damp or too hot to venture out to Church. It is enough to make even your gloomy majesty laugh to see these same people start out the next day in the worst weather imaginable. One would think it a sin to carry umbrellas and wear rubber coats to Church."

"I have a scheme which empties the seats of the workers in the Church."

"That is just what we want," said Satan.

"I make these members overwork on Saturdays. I just keep them rushed with neglected things till late at night and then they oversleep or are sick the next day, and can't get out." "Splendid plan!" cried Satan.

"Yes, it works very well with delicate women. If they clean house or have Saturday company, they can be kept at home without knowing they have broken the Sabbath the day before. A Church party late Saturday night helps to empty seats."

"You are doing finely, my imps," his majesty said warmly, "Preachers may work and pray over their sermons all the week, but there will be no results in preaching to empty seats. Your plans are

excellent, but I might suggest another good point. All preachers have human imperfections — some fault of manner or speech. Get Christians to criticize their pastor, especially before their children. If you can stir up a spirit of fault-finding against the preacher, or among the members, it will help empty the seats. If the seats are empty the minister may be a Saint and preach like an Angel to no purpose. See the result of your labor in the Churches today.

Not only did the people who stayed at home lose a blessing, but each empty seat did its work against the Lord's Kingdom. A little imp in each empty seat surely can put the damper on a fervent preacher. He made unusual preparation and went with his heart aglow, but the empty seats chilled him and he did poorly.

There was a special collection but the best givers were away, so it was a failure. It isn't a smart preacher, nor a rich congregation nor a good location, nor a paid choir that makes a successful Church. It is the Church members always being there that draws in the unconverted. As soon as a Christian begins to stay at home from one excuse or another, I know I have a "mortgage" on his soul which if he does not pay off, I will foreclose on the Judgment Day."

"Now one last word," said Satan as he was closing the convention, "get the Christians to say something unkind to the preacher — anything true or untrue, tell him the truth if necessary, that hurts! But say it in an unkind manner, so that you get him discouraged. One preacher discouraged is worth a host of laymen discouraged. If you can only work those lines too, it will greatly augment our growing number of EMPTY seats. Tell him he's long-winded, that he rambled in his talk, you know, anything — but just get him discouraged — that will take the "fire" out of him. Once that's done it won't take the "fire" long to go out in the people in the pews. Then it won't be long before we can close another church and write across its portals, "Icabod" — the glory of the Lord hath departed!"

Selected by Sister Ruth Drake



A neatly dressed boy was whistling along the street one Sunday morning when he was abruptly interrupted by a questioner, "Where are you going my boy?"

"I'm going to Sunday School," came the quick and cheerful reply.

"Tell me, why are you going to Sunday School?"

"To learn about God."

"But how do you know there is a God?"

"There is, because my Sunday School teacher knows him."

selected — Sis. Mildred Skiles

PLOWING AND SOWING THE SEED

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62.

"Behold, a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up." Matt. 13:3-4.

The one-handed plows that have been in use on the plains and valleys of Palestine since the days of Abraham are still in use. The apt illustration used by our Savior in the text shows that the one-handed plow of today was used when He taught the great lessons of the Gospel nearly two thousand years ago. The plows I examined were very simple in construction. A strong, tough piece of wood about three and a half feet long serves as a post, to one end of which is fastened the plowshare and to the other the handle. Near the center is mortised a hole, into which a long pole is securely fastened, which may be called a beam or, better still, a tongue. It is long enough to reach to the yoke on the necks of the oxen, to which it is fastened by a rope or piece of rawhide. One end of the post is sometimes armed with a piece of iron properly shaped. This is the plowshare to which reference is made in Joel 3:10. The upper end of the post is fitted with a short, round crosspiece of wood, which serves as a handle. With one hand the farmer grasps the handle of his plow and with his oxgoad drives forward his yoke of oxen. He must look forward and not backward if he would plow. I tried the plow in Palestine, and I found that if I plowed at all I must pay the closest attention to the work in hand. On our prairies in the West one may plow and look back as many times as inclination suggests, but not so in Palestine. There, if he who puts his hand to the plow would accomplish any work, he must look forward all the time. The lesson taught by the Savior is apparent. The Christian must look forward, and not backward, if he is to become fit for the kingdom of God.

On the plains of Sharon I saw the farmers plowing and preparing their fields for the seed, which the sower casts on the ground from his hand. Broadcast sowing is the proper term to apply to the operation, and as he nears the end of his field along which a roadway passes, some of the seed falls upon the hard, beaten track of the wayside. Here the birds soon discover it and it is quickly devoured. The other conditions named in the parable are all to be found in existing conditions in Palestine at the present time. The plowing, the seed falling on the wayside, among the thorns, on stony ground, and on good soil are all to be seen there today as

they were witnessed by our Savior and used by Him in teaching the common affairs of life and the common people heard Him gladly, because He spoke to them in words which they could easily understand.

Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's
The Eternal Verities

NEWS ITEMS

NEWBERG, OREGON

We plan, the Lord willing, to have a week of revival meetings, April 16 through 23. Bro. Warren Smith of McClave, Colorado will be with us at that time and bring the message each evening. A Lovefeast is expected to be held the evening of the 22nd. We ask your prayers in behalf of these meetings. We would enjoy the presence of any who can come.

Sister Elsie Harlacher, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation of Ceres, California plan their revival, the Lord willing, April 14 through 23, 1978. Brother Virgil Leatherman of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, will be our Evangelist. Services start at 7:30 nightly. Our Lovefeast will be held April 22. Please come and worship with us.

Sister Edyth Kline, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation met for council meeting, February 24, 1978, with Elder David Ebling in charge. At this time the voice of the Church was taken to elect a minister. Bro. Kenneth Wolfe was elected to this office.

May the Lord richly bless Bro. Wolfe as he begins his new duty in life. Let us give him our support and our prayers.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

MINISTERIAL LIST ADDITION

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

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NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

FAMILY PRAYER IS GOOD

Where family prayer is daily said,
God's Word is regularly read,
And faith in Christ is never dead —
That is a Christian home.

Where father, mother, sister, brother,
All have true love for one another
And no one ever hates the other —
That is a Christian home.

Where family quarrels are pushed aside
To let the love of God abide
Ere darkness falls on eventide —
That is a Christian home.

Where joy and happiness prevail
In every heart without a fail
And thoughts of God on high set sail —
That is a Christian home.

Where Jesus Christ is Host and Guest,
Through Whom we have eternal rest
And in Him are ever blest —
That is a Christian home.

Selected by Brother Lester Flora

PERSONAL APPLICATION

If we buy a bucket of paint, we realize that it must be applied to be beneficial to us. It is of no value to us if it remains in the can. The walls will remain dingy and dirty just like they were if the paint is not applied.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is of no value if it is not applied. The Gospel's application, unlike the paint's, is not to the outside but must be applied inwardly to accomplish its purpose. It has to be applied individually and only if each person is willing. The object being painted has no say in whether it wants to be painted or not, but a person not only has a say but must actually choose to have the Gospel applied.

The ramifications of not applying the paint are for a little while. But to be unresponsive to the Gospel has ramifications that will last throughout Eternity. We are accountable for how we use the Gospel, that is set before us in the preached and written word. We can use it as God intended for the betterment of our souls or we can reject it. If we reject it we realize that God will reject us also. We are accountable for our use of all the opportunities given to us. If we fail to use them properly we are guilty of sin. Sin will bring its own punishment - death. If we fail to apply our bucket of paint as we should, we can go back and get another bucket of paint and redo the whole job, but if we fail to apply the Gospel during the opportunity given us, there will be no chance to do it over.

To apply the Gospel, it must first be accepted. The paint that we apply to our walls must be picked out. We want just the right color for that particular wall, so we try several mixtures until just the right color is finally produced. When it is mixed to meet our speci-

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cations we accept it. The Gospel must also be accepted. But unlike the paint it can not be changed, nor even shaded, to meet our specifications. On the contrary, we must be changed to meet its specifications. Our acceptance of the Gospel means we are willing to meet the Gospel's requirements.

The Gospel is proclaimed through the "foolishness of preaching." The Gospel was not designed for delivery by television, through movies or plays or programs or dialogues or dinners or other modern methods. The Bible's method is preaching. Although modern methods seem to draw a crowd for a while soon the lustre will fade and another method will be tried. Preaching may not seem as exciting as many of these programs but it will last. Jesus and the Apostles first spread the Gospel in this way and it will continue until the end of the Church Age. What effect does the preaching of God's Word have upon you?

In this land of religious freedom, we have many opportunities to hear the preached Word. When we attend the services of the Church, do we apply what we hear? If we are applying the Gospel to our lives then it has become like an unapplied bucket of paint.

The Gospel is preached in many different ways, yet each type of preaching demands an application in our lives if it is to be effective. The evangelistic sermon that presents the plan of salvation must be accepted and applied first of all - or else all other religious activities are but vain jangling. Without God's plan of salvation we have absolutely no hope in this life or beyond. It must be applied by belief, repentance and trine baptism or it will do us no good.

Doctrinal sermons also need application to our lives. Doctrine in its broadest sense is every teaching found in the Bible; in its narrower sense it is the ordinances and practices of the Church. These ordinances are designed for the upbuilding of our lives, for our encouragement and for our safety that we might succeed as Christians. By applying these doctrines we are helping ourselves and others toward Heaven. Our love for God, the Church and each other is demonstrated and deepened in the practice of the ordinances. As we apply them, their benefits become more clear.

Other sermons are preached to admonish us to a more holy and pure Christian life. We are urged to follow God's will for our lives as perfectly as possible. We are urged to live our lives by the pattern of our Saviour - to live honestly, modestly and plainly. But admonition must be accepted and applied if it is to be effective. Our lives will fail to show Christ living in us, if we do not heed these admonitions.

Any sermon will fail in its purpose if those who hear only want it applied to someone else. The Gospel is for everyone, which includes each of us. Do you apply sermons only to others or do you apply them to yourself?

THE MASTER BUILDER

An architect is a person who plans buildings and oversees their construction. He draws the blue print of the building showing its design. Jesus Christ has a purpose and a design for His Church, which can be compared to a building. A building is something we all can understand. "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit." Eph. 2:20-22.

Let us take a look at this building and follow the blue print of the Great Architect.

First. The Foundation: Is of stone, joined together by love, representing the apostles and prophets; Christ, Himself, being the Chief Corner Stone.

Second. The Pillars: The up-reach, giving strength to support the whole.

Third. The Floor Joice: Representing the responsibility of the officials: Elders, Ministers and Deacons.

Fourth. The Floor: Endurance. Each member is a part of this.

Fifth. The Walls: Protection. Keeping want and trouble out and warmth within.

Sixth. The Windows: Represent the vision of the soul, letting our light shine that men may see our good works and glorify God.

Seventh. The Door: Christ Himself. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." We enter into the Church by the way of Christ, the Door.

Eighth. Ceiling. The hiding place. It separates light from darkness, truth from error. It helps to complete the whole structure.

Ninth. The Roof: Protection for the whole building. The Holy Spirit is to guide and protect us.

Tenth. The Chimney: Heat is emitted from our living. Life giving words. Let our words be of grace, properly chosen.

Eleventh. The Interior: Its beauty. A symbol of the Christian life. Do other people feel at ease in our presence?

Twelfth. Air Conditioning: Represents self-control. Keeping cool under adverse circumstances. When someone hurts us, the cooling system is not functioning properly. We call on the Holy Spirit to give us control.

Thirteenth. The Thermostat: Automatically controls temperature. Love will control every known situation; the unknown

is under God's control. If we need Spiritual warmth we go to God.

The Master Builder has so designed His Church, that each member represents a part of this building. May we find our place and work and pray, that lost souls may have a desire to be a part of us, so Christ may have a Glorious Church.

Sister Sylvia E. Parker

5290 W. St. Rt. 718, Troy, Ohio 45373

TRAPPED!

Six young people from this area were riding in a speeding car. The driver failed to slow down for a curve and the car went over a guardrail into a river. Four of the six met death; only two boys managed to escape. Due to the circumstances when they died and their way of life, there was no reason to think that any of the six were at peace with God. Theirs was a wild life. One of the girls was conscious and she begged the boys to get her out, but their efforts were unsuccessful. She was trapped!

Whether they lived or died, they were all trapped - by sin. The girl was aware of her certain death if she didn't get out. She couldn't help herself even though she tried. The others apparently were dazed and unaware of their perilous situation. The two boys who reached safety had no peace knowing the other's fate, but they were helpless. None of them seemed to know that sin had them trapped. It is sad when the body is trapped and life is snuffed out, but when the soul is trapped in sin, there is a real tragedy when death comes.

People are trapped by drugs, narcotics and alcohol. They get trapped in religious cults, unable to think for themselves and someone must literally kidnap them to rescue them. People are trapped by creeds which take precedence over Christ. They are trapped into following rituals instead of Christian living. There are "I'm too busy" traps and procrastination traps. The Devil will use any trap he can to keep you from salvation.

You can be trapped by wrong attitudes. "I can't possibly be wrong" is a trap. It's like saying, "I know what being a Christian is all about. Do it my way and you'll be all set." If you know what being a Christian is all about, you know we are all subject to error; that is why we need Christ to intercede for us. You would point a seeker to God's Word, not yourself, if you know the right way. Only God's way is right and we can only follow another Christian as far as he or she follows Christ. When your attitude pleases God, you will say, "Look to Jesus. I need Jesus, too."

Another wrong attitude is "Why should anyone care what I do? What I do is between God and me." This implies that God is more lenient than man in judging you when you've done wrong. This is not so. What you do wrong IS between you and God; it serves as a trap to keep you away from God. Until you ask forgiveness and forsake that sin, you can't have a close relationship to God, for unforgiven sin is a barrier between God and you. What you do is important, be it right or wrong.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12. It pays to know where you are going, whom you are traveling with. There are ways which look good on the surface, but don't be deceived. No way is right unless it is Christ-centered and Bible-based. Any way which is man-centered and has works or a creed as the base is only a trap. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The Holy Spirit leads you into the truth, not a trap. Whenever you are uncertain, ask the Lord if it's the truth or a trap; don't take a chance.

There are people so deep in sin that they think they are too bad to be saved, that God couldn't possibly want them. This is only another of Satan's traps to keep them away from Christ. The depths of their sin is not what condemns them; rejection of Christ does. "He that beliveth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18. Without Christ, there isn't any hope for any sinner. If we waited until we were "good enough" to be saved, we never would be, because we don't merit any favor from God regardless of how good we are. He gives us salvation through Christ only. There is no other way.

The scribes and Pharisees thought doing certain things made them acceptable to God and those who didn't do the same were unacceptable. To them, Jesus said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" To us, He says, "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:20. The scribes and Pharisees were caught in a self-righteous trap. They did various good things but left undone the more important things - of judgment, mercy and faith. They made themselves look good on the outside but inside they were dead.

Salvation brings joy; sin brings misery. Salvation brings freedom; sin brings bondage. Salvation brings peace and contentment; sin brings confusion and dissatisfaction. If you want a joy-filled life, come to Jesus. "If the Son therefore shall make you free,

ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36. Christ does make us free - free from the bondage of sin, free from the penalty for sin which is death.

Acts 8:25 speaks of Simon being in the bond of iniquity. He was still trapped by his old ways and didn't realize that his heart was not right. Are you trapped by your old ways? Or have you surrendered them to Christ so He can set you free? "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." Psalms 51:10-12. With a clean heart and the Holy Spirit within, there will be joy within you, for you are now free.

There are forces which bind us together in Christ, but they are not traps. Instead, we are free to serve Christ; we are free to share His love with those about us. We are free to turn the other cheek, knowing we don't have to protect ourselves. We are free to give a little extra, knowing Christ will keep us well-supplied and we won't run out of something to give. Sin traps us; Christ's love sets us free. Which do you want, freedom - or the trap?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO HEAVEN?

Men trust maps to show them the way to places they have never been. In taking a trip on an unknown highway, a map is essential. It is studied before leaving home. The best route from here to there is chosen. The map is referred to many times on the way.

What about our Spiritual journey? Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction (hell), and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life (Heaven), and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13-14. So we must have our map with us. The Bible is our map. In it we find our way. It is not God's Will that anyone should be lost: but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved.

Satan tries to put many stumbling blocks in our way. If we do not study our map (the Bible) we will be lost and Satan will be the winner. Doubt is one of his stumbling blocks - but Jesus says, "If ye have faith, and doubt not...all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt. 21:21b-22. So we can detour around that stumbling block, if we know the Word.

One of Satan's biggest stumbling blocks is discouragement. So many times we come up against this one. But our map (the Bible)

shows us where many of God's people met and overcame Satan's attempts to hinder them on their way. There are too many to mention here. Read your Bible; you'll be thrilled at what God can do. There was the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day. The Red Sea parted to let the children of Israel through.

Have you come to the Red Sea place in your life?
If you trust and never doubt,
He will surely bring you out,
Take your burden to the Lord, and leave it there.

We would surely be lost on this journey to Eternity if we did not study our map, for there is only one right way. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14:6.

When we take a journey here, especially on our freeways, we come to signs that read: "Wrong Way," "Do Not Enter," "Road Narrows," and we come to places where there are detour signs. Sometimes, even though the signs are there, someone will be going the wrong way. Death and destruction will surely happen unless he gets turned around quickly. Sometimes, on a journey, we get off onto a road that does not lead to where we want to go. This comes from not studying our map enough or not paying attention to where we are going. The sooner we discover our mistake and get back on the right road, the better it will be.

On our Spiritual journey we find these same signs, "Wrong Way!" "Do Not Enter!" and "Road Narrows!" When we come to the detour signs, heed them! The doubts, the fears and the disappointments are stumbling blocks. Study your map (the Bible). Know how to detour around the Devil's rock slides.

"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:5-6.

Study your Map.

Sister Edyth Kline

REUNION IN HEAVEN

Here in this world there are gatherings which are called reunions. There relatives gather on a certain day of the year to be together. These can not be compared to the day of all days when all those redeemed through Christ get to their Eternal Home.

We hear songs about America the Beautiful. Some say here is the best country to live in, yet it has all of its sorrow and suffering.

The earth and all its contents are perishable. If we had nothing better to look forward to, we would be of all men most miserable. We can lean upon the Everlasting Arm of Christ, our Saviour. Through Him, we have a much better place to look forward to, better than anything in this world.

Here is this world, there is much sorrow and suffering. It is not God's will that any be lost. All should come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. We can be prepared and become united with all the redeemed of Christ our Savior. The redeemed include the great men of God who were faithful to Him before Christ came to earth. Then there were the faithful we have learned of through the New Testament. Also, our faithful foreparents whom we have shared sorrow and trouble with in this world. We can never repay our debt of gratitude to those who brought us up in the admonition of the Lord. What a great time that will be, to be with the redeemed who have passed beyond this world of sorrow and suffering. There will be no more pain and God will wipe away all tears and where joy and happiness will never end. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Only those who have their robes washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb will be there. The Apostle Paul referred to it as a crown of life laid up for him and all those who love Christ's appearing. Neither can they die any more for they are equal unto the angels and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. Luke 21:36.

We that are among the aged in this life know our time is short. We also know of the uncertainty of life, having no promise of tomorrow. We are living in the latter days. God's Word tells us of many who have done wonderful works but who, because they did not cleanse themselves from iniquity, will be rejected from Heaven. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people; are we prepared for the great reunion of the Saints? There will be no dark clouds, no storms, no night. The city is four square, the walls are of jasper and the streets paved with pure gold. A glorious crown is awaiting those who live godly in Christ Jesus. Referring to the saints Jesus said, "And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God." Luke 13:29. There will be a peace that passeth understanding and joy that the world can never give. This is the place, John the Revelator, looked into while on the lonely Isle of Patmos. Christ said referring to the saints, "I go to prepare a place for you.... that where I am, there ye may be also."

Bro. J. F. Marks
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THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE ARK RETURNS TO ISRAEL

I SAMUEL 6

The Philistines were in trouble. They had the ark of the Lord of Israel and the longer they kept it, the worse their troubles became. The Philistines called for their priests and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the Lord? Tell us what to do." The priests and diviners said, "Don't send it away empty, but send five golden emrods and five golden mice; one for each of the lords of the cities of the Philistines."

They remembered how Pharaoh hardened his heart against Moses in Egypt and of the plagues that came upon the Egyptians. They didn't want any more evil to come upon them, so the priests of the Philistines said, "Make a new cart and take two cows that have never been yoked together and tie the cows to the cart and take their calves home from them. Then take the ark of the Lord and lay it upon the cart and put the jewels in a box by the side of it and send it away that it may go." The priests said that if the cows took the cart to the land of Israel, then they would know that the Lord had done the great evil to them, but if they didn't go, then they would know that it was but a chance that happened to them.

What do you think happened? Did those two cows leave their calves and take the ark back to Israel? They surely did. They didn't want to. The Bible says the cows took a straight way to the land of Israel lowing as they went. They were bawling their heads off for their calves but they had to go because God made them go.

When the cart came to the land of Beth-shemesh, the people were reaping wheat. When they saw the ark, they rejoiced to see it. They felt now that God would again be with them and bless them. They chopped up the cart for fire wood and offered the cows as a burnt offering unto the Lord. The Philistines had followed the ark. When they saw the Israelites sacrificing to the Lord, they returned to Ekron. The cows had pulled the cart about twenty miles.

All things are possible with God. We should never doubt His power. God knows best and He is able to bless us abundantly.

Brother Rudy Cover

FIFTY YEARS, THEN AND NOW

What a change fifty years has made. Man calls the change, progress; I wonder what God calls it? Here in western Maryland, our thermometers have stood at near zero, sometimes above, sometimes below, with seldom a day warm enough to even begin to thaw the high snow banks. How confined people feel and how they discuss these terrible, cold, snowy winters.

God sent us snowy winters fifty years ago. We did not want to go anywhere; we could not have gone if we had wanted to. Roads were blockaded with snow except the very main roads. The mailman on occasion would shoulder his mail bag and walk to deliver the mail to the boxes. What did we do while we were snowbound? We made the animals (I was reared on a farm) comfortable and we sat by the fire and enjoyed the snowfall. My father read and did odd jobs about the house, shop and barn. Mother and I quilted, embroidered, knit, mended and sewed. Some of the sweetest memories I have are of when we sat around the family circle in family worship and in working together. We did not watch television. Radio, which was listened to with ear phones, was just being introduced to the public. In 1926, my parents bought their first car, an open Model T Ford Touring, which I do not think cost over seven hundred dollars. They stored it until the following Spring because car travel in Winter was often impossible due to snow and deep, muddy ruts in the roads, which a horse and wagon could hardly get over. We traveled the three or four miles to Church different ways, depending on weather and circumstances - sometimes we walked, sometimes we went by buggy, sled or wagon.

In 1926 our congregation at Swallow Falls was organized. We built a meeting house (the one we still use) in 1927. In the meantime we had no house of worship, so we had services in the homes. People would sometimes walk several miles to attend services. What meetings we had. People were interested and we had good crowds. My mother would always want everyone to stay to dinner. These fellowship meals together added to our spiritual growth. When the Brethren and Sisters drift apart and company with the world at work or play, it is like to taking one hot coal out of the fire and laying it out by itself - it soon cools off, just as we do spiritually.

What has happened to the oldtime hospitality, when people willingly shared what they had? I think the tastiest food I ever ate was my grandmother's home-made bread, with home-made cow butter and home-made apple butter. You did not have to have a dinner

engagement ahead of time to be asked to stay and eat, you were welcome and wanted. This neighborly warmth between people is almost unknown today, even when people can rush off to the grocers and buy food almost, ready-prepared. Much has been lost. No wonder there is greed, jealousy, envy, spite and such evils between people. We have not learned to know each other, understand each other's problems, share each other's difficulties, joys and sorrows. The Bible says, "...by love serve one another." There never has been a time, I believe, when mankind has been so starved for the true love of God. Only by sharing can we meet that need.

We did not have convalescent homes in those days to my knowledge. Oh, yes, there was something that was very degrading called "The Poor House Over the Way," so I was told, where people who had no one to care for them, nor the means, could go and there become charges of the state. But I never knew anyone who went there. It was a disgrace to any family who would let a relative or friend go there. People took care of their parents, grandparents and other relatives and even Brethren and Sisters in the Church, who had no relatives and sometimes people who were not Brethren and Sisters in the Church. My grandmother (my father's mother) had broken health herself, but her latch string was always out if someone needed a home, be it an orphan child (she reared three besides her own five living children) or an aged person. They just went to Aunt Alice's, as everyone called her, and she cared for them till they were grown or death claimed them. That was truly visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction as James 1:27 says we should. Now, it seems, everyone is so busy getting their work done, making ends meet, pleasure seeking, and so forth that they have little time to visit or do for the needy. Through this lack of concern, love has been lost and families cheated of wonderful blessings.

My other grandmother, a widow, at age eighty broke up house-keeping and went to stay with her children. I always was glad for Grandma to come; I loved and respected both my grandmothers, so did other young people their grandparents. But what has happened to the love and respect of the aged of yesteryear?

It was about 1919, I was outside playing and the first airplane I ever saw went over. I did not know what the thing was and it scared me. I ran to my mother as fast as I could. Now men are going to the moon. I read an article in a modern magazine concerning space flight, it said, "and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." I checked Gen. 11:6 and found the very same words and intent was expressed at the tower of Babel. The

Psalmist said in Psa. 115:16, "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men."

Fifty years ago if a person had an elementary education he could read, spell, write, cipher and some other things, even better than many high school graduates of today. In order to get that education, we had to walk to school. I walked four miles a day to school and my path was not the longest one. I worked before I went and after I got home, too, and I was not too tired to play either. It is good for children to learn to work, it keeps them occupied and gives life a feeling of accomplishment. All the things that money can buy will never substitute for the warmth of love and sharing work and play together. We are living in the age when people are ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Recently I read a book, *MIND AT THE END OF IT'S TETHER*, by H. G. Wells, the last work of a seventy-nine year old, noted scientist, who spent his life trying to work out a utopia without God. The more he studied and the more he worked, the more he came to the realization that science was not the answer, the pieces fell apart rather than together; all he could envision in the future was destruction and oblivion for the human race. He could neither believe in God or a Hereafter because he could see no proof of evidence. So a great, learned scientist spent a lifetime learning and demonstrating worldly knowledge, only to find that the heavens were brass and the earth mud, into which he sank a year later at age eighty a disillusioned man, who entered the Unknown Beyond without preparation. He is an example of ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Fifty years ago people seldom locked their doors. Once in a while a chicken coop or a smoke house was visited by a thief at night. How different now, a man walks into a neighbors' house, shoots the occupants then himself. A friend is beaten to death in daylight. The world is again filled with violence, while God in His great mercy seems to be prolonging the time till His wrath falls upon the workers of iniquity.

Many more things could be written, but this is a partial birdseye view of the past fifty years. Man has sought out many inventions that could have been used for good, but so many times are not. Please read Psa. 99:8; 106:29, 39; Eccl. 7:29.

Even though man was more spiritual fifty years ago, perhaps happier and less frustrated and fearful, possibly it is unwise to compare now with then. But we should go back to Christ and the Gospels for our true pattern to live by. Satan has been on the world

scene since the Garden of Eden as a destroyer of everything good and the shorter his time becomes the more alert and progressive he becomes. I pray that everyone will study the Word of God with a yieldedness to do His will. The dark days of tribulation are upon us and the inventions and the gold and silver we have striven so hard to get will be worthless. The works of the flesh and carnality will be burned. What manner of men and women do we want to be when we stand before our Maker, Redeemer and Judge?

May the Lord guide and bless you.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
R. 2, Box 129, Oakland, Maryland



Cultivate consideration for the feelings of other people if you would not have your own injured. Those who complain most of ill-usage are those who abuse others the oftenest.



DON'T JUDGE BY SIZE!

The wonderful things in nature are the smallest.

A flea leaps 200 times its length. A man would have to jump 1,200 feet to equal this proportionately.

The house fly takes 440 steps to travel three inches, and does it in a half second — corresponding to a man running 20 miles in a minute.

An ant lifts a load many, many times its own weight — a man would have to lift a diesel locomotive and carry it on his back to compare with that of the ant.

Turnip seeds under good conditions increase their weight 15 times a minute, and in rich soil turnip seeds may increase their weight 15,000 times a day.

There is no force more powerful than a growing squash. A squash 18 days old has been harnessed in such a way that in its growing process it lifted 50 pounds on lever — 19 days later it lifted 5,000 pounds.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great. . . O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. Psalm 104:1, 24.

Selected by Sis. Mildred Skiles

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation plans to hold their Spring Lovefeast, April 29 and 30, Lord willing. Services will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, also services will be in the afternoon with Lovefeast in the evening at 7:30. Services all day on Sunday.

Come and worship with us. If you can't come, pray for us.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation plans to have Lovefeast on Saturday afternoon, May 20 starting at 2 o'clock with Lovefeast in the evening.

A hearty invitation is extended to all who can attend.

Since our last report there were two received by letter. On Saturday, March 12, two were received into the Church by baptism.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

MINISTERIAL LIST ADDITION

The following Brother's name may be added to the ministerial list in the February 1, 1978 Bible Monitor: Henry Walker, 12413 Delaware Road, Hickman, California 95323.

The names of Brethren Doyle Litfin and Dale Newman may be added to the list of Deacons.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY

May 7 — The Doctrine of God. John 7:1-31.

May 14 — MOTHER'S DAY - Ruth 1:1-18.

May 21 — Thirsting for God. John 7:32-53.

May 28 — Forgiveness: "Go and Sin No More." John 8:1-11.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) How can we know that a doctrine (teaching) is of God? John 7:17.
- (2) What convinced the people more than anything else that Jesus was the Christ? John 7:31.
- (3) Why do you think that Ruth was determined to stay with Naomi? Ruth 1:16-17.
- (4) What is the living water that Jesus said He would give to believers? John 7:39.
- (5) Why didn't the men who brought the woman taken in adultery, stone her? John 8:9.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MAY, 1978 COUNSEL

Memory Verse: Prov. 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkenth unto counsel is wise.

Mon. 1-Prov. 12:1-28

Tues. 2-Prov. 15:1-33

Wed. 3-Prov. 19:1-29

Thur. 4-Prov. 20:1-30

Fri. 5-Prov. 21:1-31

Sat. 6-Prov. 22:1-29

Memory Verse: Prov. 19:21

There are many devices in a man's heart: nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.

Sun. 7-Prov. 24:1-34

Mon. 8-Prov. 27:1-27

Tues. 9-Ecc. 8:1-17

Wed. 10-Isa. 1:1-31

Thur. 11-Isa. 5:1-25

Fri. 12-Isa. 7:1-25

Memory Verse: Isa. 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Sun. 14-Isa. 9:1-21

Mon. 15-Isa. 11:1-16

Tues. 16-Isa. 19:1-25

Wed. 17-Isa. 25:1-12

Thur. 18-Isa. 28:5-29

Fri. 19-Isa. 29:1-24

Sat. 20-Isa. 30:1-26

Memory Verse: Isa. 25:1

O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

Sun. 21-Isa. 36:1-22

Mon. 22-Isa. 37:1-20

Tues. 23-Isa. 37:21-38

Wed. 24-Isa. 38:1-22

Thur. 25-Isa. 40:1-31

Fri. 26-Isa. 40:1-29

Sat. 27-Isa. 44:1-28

Memory Verse: Isa. 30:1

Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin.

Sun. 28-Isa. 45:1-25

Mon. 29-Isa. 46:1-13

Tues. 30-Isa. 47:1-15

Wed. 31-Jer. 7:1-28

Memory Verse: Isa. 46:10

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Jer. 7:24

But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear. but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

MAY 1, 1978

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A mother's love is like a thought;
It's never really gone.
It always lingers somewhere near,
As real as light at dawn.

She gives it richly all her life,
While with her children here,
And even when she's gone from earth,
It makes her seem so near.

The love she gave is in our hearts,
And she shall ever be,
One whose love shall light our lives,
And shine through all eternity.

Selected by Sister Ruby Sowers

A MOTHER'S LOVE

Many times we notice that God works out events in a way that would never have occurred to us. We can not see the beginning from the end, but God works things out in a way that leaves an impression upon our minds of His greatness and the lesson He has for us.

When Solomon became King of Israel, God gave him an opportunity to choose riches, long life or revenge upon his enemies. Solomon chose none of these things, but instead asked for wisdom. He realized that as king he must make many hard decisions and he would need wisdom from Above to make the correct judgments. His request pleased God. God gave him not only the wisdom he had asked for but also the things he had not requested. It is this God-given gift of wisdom that points out a mother's love for her child.

Early in Solomon's reign a very perplexing problem was brought before him by two harlots. Each had borne a child just three days apart. They were disputing which was the mother of the remaining child. The one mother had been negligent in the care of her child. Then while the other mother slept, she had exchanged the dead child for the live one. Both claimed the living child and their dispute was brought before the king. There were no witnesses to offer testimony in favor of either claimant. Solomon now had to make a very difficult choice.

The wisdom, requested of God, now came to the forefront. Solomon called for a sword and ordered the living child to be halved and each claimant given half of the child. This threat

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brought an immediate response from the true mother. She would rather the child be given to the other than to have any harm befall it. Her motherly love decided the case in her favor. Solomon had wisely put the child in danger that the mother might prove herself by an exclamation of her love for the child. Hers was a mother's love for she would rather suffer sorrow than to have evil befall the child.

This mother was not one whom we would not ordinarily find much praise for, since it is recorded that she was a harlot. Even in one who had devoted her life to immorality there still was this emotion that united her with other mothers. Perhaps this display of her love might have worked a reformation in her life. Now realizing her true feelings for the child, she may have decided to raise it in a more wholesome atmosphere.

The wisdom displayed by Solomon in this instance reminds us of the many admonitions given to parents, and to mothers in particular, concerning the raising of their children. God wants mothers to display their love for their children not only in protecting them, as this mother did, or in giving them the physical comforts of life, but in giving them Spiritual values through teaching and discipline.

Paul in writing to his Spiritual son, Timothy, reminded him of the training he had received from his mother and grandmother. Because of their love for God and for Timothy, they were able to see that kind of faith develop in him also. It was not easy for there was opposition within the home. But then anything worthwhile is never easy.

Paul also wrote Titus concerning the duties of various ones in the congregation. He was concerned that the aged women, the grandmothers, would be teaching younger women, the mothers, how to conduct their lives in a way pleasing to God. "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Tit. 2:4-5. While some of these duties do not directly express the thought of a mother's love for her children, indirectly they do. If the mother is conscientious in these duties she will be showing love for her children. Whenever a mother follows the commands of God she is giving her family a lesson in love, she is giving them a good example to follow.

When the wife expresses in word and deed her love for the husband and father, she is preparing her children for marriage and family life according to God's pattern. The other duties — discretion, sobriety, chasteness and obedience are all needful in the wife and mother or the Word of God may be blasphemed. Certainly a mother who loves her children and wants them to follow God's

Word will be careful in her living so they may have a noble example to follow.

Mothers, do you love your family? Then show your love by following God's Word. Children, have you had a Christian mother? Then follow her example and follow her God.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN MOTHER

What a friend we have in Mother,
Who will all our secrets share,
We should never keep things from her,
Tell her all, and she'll be there.
Oh, what tender love she gives us,
When in sorrow or despair,
Tell her gently, whisper softly,
She will listen, she'll be there.

Day by day as she grows older,
She's the nation's guiding star,
Don't forget the prayers she taught you,
You will need them where you are.
Though her hair has turned to silver,
Send her flowers sweet and fair,
Drop a card or send a letter,
She'll be waiting, she'll be there.

When her eyes have closed to slumber
Gently kiss her icy brow,
Fold her hands upon her bosom,
She will rest in Heaven now.
When your days are dark and dreary,
And your cross is hard to bear,
Do not let your mem'ry fail you,
Think of Mother, she'll be there.

— R. E. Winsertt

Selected by Sister Sylvia E. Parker

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

The activity, conduct and concern of Christian Mothers is recorded in Holy Scripture.

We will look into the lives of Elkanah and Hannah, his wife. They were people who worshiped God.

Their prayer life was such that it drew the attention of others. When the yearly sacrifice was to be offered, they went up to the

Temple to worship. Hannah was deeply grieved, for she had no child. She decided to present this problem before the Lord. She knew that, only God had the power to help her. "And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head." I Sam. 1:10-11.

God heard and answered her prayer. When Samuel was old enough, mother Hannah took her offering and her son and presented him to the Lord. Thus she dedicated her son and his work to the Lord.

God had a special work prepared for Samuel at the Temple. I Sam. 2:18-19, "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice."

Hannah was truly a Godly Mother. She kept her vow and paid that which she had vowed.

Her devotion to God and her family is to be commended. This beautiful family life is recorded in Scripture so we, as Christian Mothers, can turn to it. There we can find encouragement and urging to fidelity in our family relationships, and the rearing of our children, so our lives may be to the honour and glory of God.

Thank God for Christian Mothers.

Sister Sylvia E. Parker
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HONOR FATHER AND MOTHER

To honor our parents means to show love, affection, gratitude and respect. Honoring our parents should be a daily matter. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Eph. 6:1-3.

In the Old Testament the command was similar. We know of some who through not taking good advice from parents turned to the evil way of life. Sin has brought suffering and a very short stay on earth. On the other hand, honoring parents has led many to useful, honored lives. We who were raised up by Christian parents can never repay the debt of gratitude we owe to them.

We know of many who have rebelled against Christian parents and have taken the evil way of life and yet may not realize they are disobeying God. This command of God was renewed by Christ and we are reminded of it by the Apostle Paul. We should obey it. If many who have failed, would have been obedient to this command in the past century, professing Christianity would be much closer to the Bible, today. "For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death." Matt. 15:4. We believe this Scripture is referring to eternal death.

How sad, knowing that people will extend an abusive and disrespectful attitude toward Christian parents. Absalom was disobedient and rebellious. God brought him to an untimely end. Disrespect and disobedience to Christian parents are usually the first steps to the wicked way of life. "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Col. 3:20. We see many who have not taken the good advice of their Christian parents. By so doing they have strayed from the teachings of the New Testament.

Many times when parents have done so much for their children it is not appreciated. In our day we see not only young people place hardships upon parents but also many older persons do so. Many have turned against Christian parents, some get into bad society and place hardships upon the aged, becoming disrespectful and untrue to them. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Jám. 2:10.

Will we be among those who are unfaithful or among the faithful few who have taken the path of truth and righteousness? Let us take the narrow way that leads to eternal glory. We must do so, in order to meet with the faithful who have changed time for Eternity.

Brother J. F. Marks
Rt. 9, Box 860, Plant City, Florida

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR MOM

In Luke 13:6-9, we are told of a fig tree that was just like all other fig trees except for one thing: it didn't bear any fruit. It looked hopeless after three years, but they decided to give the tree another chance. The Bible tells us of some mothers who had another chance, either to more completely teach their children about the Lord or to get right with God themselves. He was especially kind to three mothers, and in their experience, they were no doubt brought closer to Him. Try to picture yourself in their cir-

cumstances; see if you would be glad for another chance.

During a famine, Elijah was sent by God to live in the home of a widow (I Kings 17). The Lord had commanded this woman to take care of him, a seemingly impossible task when she had so little to do it with. She was down to her last bit of food, which she and her son planned to eat, then die. She followed Elijah's instructions and fixed him a little cake first. According to the Lord's promise, her bit of oil and meal lasted until the famine was over.

Later on, this widow's son died. Elijah took her son to his own bed and prayed that his soul would return. The Lord heard him. Receiving her son alive again restored this mother's confidence that Elijah was truly a man of God and that he spoke the truth. She had already been given another chance to live in spite of the famine. Now she had another chance to be a good mother. She could continue to tell her son about God. Surely her son must have been awed and thrilled when he realized that he, too, had had another chance.

A widow with two sons was in great distress because a creditor was about to take them as slaves to pay a debt (II Kings 4:1-7). She sought help from Elisha, as there was nothing she could do. He asked what she had. It sure didn't seem like much. It was just a pot of oil, but when the Lord blessed it, it was enough.

Elisha told her to borrow all the empty vessels she could get her hands on and to fill them with oil from her pot. It sounds fantastic, doesn't it? But she followed his instructions and every vessel was filled. When the oil was sold, there was enough money to pay the debt and some left to live on. Her sons were still hers. She, too, had another chance to be a good mother. She and her sons knew they had been given another chance to be a family and surely they loved God for it.

A Shunammite woman also received a special blessing from God. She and her husband had provided a room for Elisha to use when he passed through the area (II Kings 4:8-37 and 8:1-6). She seemed content as she was but Elisha insisted on doing something for her. He learned that she had no children so he promised her a child. She couldn't believe this at first, but she did have a son. One day, her son became sick and soon died. What should she do now? She immediately sought Elisha's help. After he had prayed for her son, the Lord restored him to life. She now had another chance to be a good mother.

God's care didn't stop with her son being made alive again. A famine was coming and Elisha warned her to go and live elsewhere until it was over. When she returned to her homeland, she asked

for her inheritance. Her story was told to the king and he personally saw to it that she received all that was rightfully hers, including what the land produced while she was gone. How blessed she was to keep having "another chance" when so many times her future looked hopeless!

God doesn't always use or bless those whom we consider to be perfect mothers. Sometimes, He uses and honors some that we would consider "question marks." Four women are listed in the lineage of Christ given by Matthew; none were perfect. Tamar or Tamar pretended to be a harlot so she could trap Judah, her father-in-law, because he hadn't kept his word to her. Rachab or Rahab apparently is the harlot who saved the spies in Jericho; she was the mother of Boaz. Ruth, a Gentile raised in idolatry, was David's great-grandmother. The last is Bathsheba, who carelessly displayed herself, and she and David both suffered.

Why did God honor these women by giving them a place in the lineage of Christ? It was for the same reason that He honors any mother - for her loyalty to Him, not because of her mistakes. These women acted on faith in God and their experiences no doubt served to strengthen their faith in Him. They didn't all start out right, but they did learn to trust in Him. The qualities of a virtuous woman are listed in Proverbs 31, verse 30 tells us why she is virtuous - because she fears the Lord. No Mom is ever really complete without faith in God.

When God gives us another chance, He sets aside the fact that we've already had our chance to "make good." He may give us a second chance because someone really cares about us and asks God to give us a little more time, or He may save us from some tragedy. If God is merciful to you and gives you another chance, don't abuse it. Use your new opportunity to be a better mother, to learn to trust Him more. Ruth trusted the Lord before she became a mother, but it's not too late to trust Him even if you are already one. In the hands of the Lord, you can be the best Mom in the world. Let it be said of you as of Ruth: "For all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman." Ruth 3:11a.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
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Strong feelings do not necessarily make a strong character. The strength of a man is to be measured by the power of the feelings he subdues, not by the power of those which subdue him.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"GIVE US A KING"

I SAMUEL 8

Who is your King? God was Israel's King and He should be ours. But Israel wanted a king like the nations around them. They forgot that God was their King. Samuel had been a good judge of Israel and had been honest and fair in his judgement of the people. When Samuel became old, he made his two sons to be judges over Israel. They were not men of God as their father had been. They took bribes and perverted judgement. This means that if someone gave them money they would say he was innocent when they knew he was guilty. The elders of Israel came to Samuel and said, "Behold, you are old, and your sons walk not in your ways: make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

Samuel was displeased with the idea of Israel wanting a king like the ungodly nations around them. Samuel prayed to the Lord about it. God said unto Samuel, "Listen to the people and do all that they say unto you: for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me."

Samuel told the people what God had said. The king that would reign over them would take their sons and make them drive his chariots and some of them would run before his chariots and others would be captains and soldiers, some would till his ground and reap his harvest. Their daughters would be cooks for the king. He would take their olive groves and vineyards and give them to his servants. The king would tax them heavily and take their men servants, maid servants and asses and sheep. Samuel also said, "In that day you will cry because of your king which you have chosen; and the Lord will not hear you."

With all the warning Samuel gave the people, they still wanted a king. They wanted to be like other nations and have a king to judge them and go out and fight their battles. Samuel heard all the words of the people and repeated them to the Lord. The Lord said to Samuel, "Hearken unto their voice and make them a king."

How stubborn can people get? When Israel obeyed God, He blessed them abundantly. He brought them out of Egypt where they had been slaves for four hundred years. He gave them a good land and drove out their enemies. They had houses they hadn't built, olive groves and vineyards that they hadn't planted. Yet they were dissatisfied and wanted a man for a king.

Are people like that today? I think they are. They want their own way and they won't do what God tells them to do.

Decide today that you want God to be your King. He will bless you all the days of your life if you do. Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life..." Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings!

Brother Rudy Cover

BUSY MOTHER

"I'd take the time, dear Lord, to pray
But see what work there is today —
The washing, baking, clothes to mend,
And all the family to tend."
And so goes by another day
Without a moment spent to pray.

Things go awry, the starch boils o'er;
My tempers high - I mop the floor —
The rush to do my work aright
Does not seem worth the fight by night,
Perhaps I would accomplish more
If strength and grace were gained before!

"Forgive me, Lord, the 'Martha view'
When I so need the time with you.
I'm sure a quarter-hour or so
Would help to rout my own soul's foe.
I cannot be from care set free
Without some fellowship with Thee."

"Somehow, dear God, this day I'll try it.
Will take the time with Thee in quiet.
Then through the day, because of Prayer,
In all my work I'll see Thee there.
Be Thou my Master, Keeper of my home,
and those I tend and love."

— Frances R. Longins
Selected by Sister B. Eberly



Wrong is wrong, even if everybody does it; and right is right,
even if nobody does it.

FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS

Faith, of our mothers, hold it true
As morning star in heaven's blue,
As peerless pearl from ocean's bed,
As guiding light seen far ahead;
Faith of our mothers, blessed faith,
It shall be ours to hold till death.

Faith of our mothers, hold in trust
That which is true and pure and just,
Her loving thought and constant prayer
For those held dear who leave her care.
Faith of our mothers, blessed faith
In holy hope, we'll hold till death.

Faith of our mothers, hold in love
This sacred treasure from above,
God grant it grace upon its way
O'er wandering souls to hold its sway.
Faith of our mothers, blessed faith,
Triumphantly we'll hold till death.

Selected by Sister Ruth Drake

"I LOVE YOU JOHNNY"

"I love you, Johnny," said Mother one Day.
"I love you more than I can say."
Then she answered his questions with, "Don't bother me now;"
And just didn't have time to show him how
To tie his truck to his tractor and plow.
But she washed her windows and scrubbed the floor
And baked and cooked and cleaned some more.
"Bring the neighbor in? Well I should say not.
You'll track up my floors and I don't want a spot.
No, we won't have time for a story today,
Mother's cooking for company, so run out and play.
Maybe tomorrow," she said with a sigh,
And Johnny went out almost ready to cry.
"I love you, Johnny," again she said
As she washed his face and sent him to bed.
Now how do you think Johnny guessed
Whether 'twas he or the house that she really loved best?

— Mary Klassen

A MOTHER'S PLEDGE

I WILL do my part to make our home a happy place of work, play, love, and worship. I will give Christ His place in my life and help each family member to be loyal to Him and to the Church.

I WILL be a loving companion to my husband, mentally, physically, and spiritually. When misunderstandings come, I will be quick to forgive and to ask forgiveness. I will encourage a happy relationship between my husband and our children.

I WILL take time to enjoy our children and to appreciate each one individually. I will discipline out of love and not to relieve my inner feelings. I will help our children to befriend people of all races and to live above petty grievances. I will answer all their questions about life and teach them about eternal life in Christ.

I WILL maintain an interest in people and affairs outside our home. I will PRAY, GIVE, and GO as God leads me to help those in physical or spiritual need.

I WILL look upon this life as only a part of God's great plan for me. I will keep busy and happy, with an enthusiasm for life, but with my face set toward my Father's house of many mansions.

GOD HELPING ME, this is the kind of person I will be that my life might be a blessing to my husband, to our children and the generations to come, to the Church and to the world.

By Ruth B. Stoltzfus

Selected by Sister Delores Stuber

THE VALUE OF LIVING A TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Christ lived and set the example for you and me to follow. Do we follow His teachings? Are we following in the path He chose for us? If not, we had better get awake while it is still day, ere the night of death comes and finds us unprepared.

We are told in the New Testament about a pay day some day. For this reason, we look for a good standard to be governed by. We turn our hearts and minds to the Lord, surrendering our all to Him. Then we are led, guided and directed by Christ. We must strive to not be like the world. We must be conscious of our sins and ever be on our guard as Satan is never idle. He goes to and fro seeking a place where he can win us. If we belong to the Lord, let us fight that

good fight of faith and lay hold of Eternal Life. If we expect Christ to be our Paymaster in the final judgment, we must do what He commands us to do and follow where He leads. We all realize we only have one of two places to go. We either serve the Lord so Heaven will be our home, or we serve the Devil so Hell will be our home, where we will suffer all through eternity. There are only two paymasters: Christ or the Devil. We are told we cannot serve two masters, either we will love the one and hate the other or will hold to the one and despise the other. We are told it is impossible to serve God and mammon.

I believe the greatest sermon is recorded in Matthew five through seven. In this wonderful Sermon on the Mount, we are told to enter in by the narrow gate "for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." If we follow that straight way the gate will be narrow, but this way leads us to life everlasting, eternal in the Heavens. We also are told only a few will travel this way. Many are not willing to leave this sin-cursed and ruined world to follow that Man of Galilee, who did so much for you and me.

If we are willing to travel on that straight and narrow road it will lead us Home. If we are true and steadfast in our Christian walk of life, we will be active in the work of the Lord. We are to be lights to those around us, so let us find ways we can help others to follow Christ. Let us never find fault, but always have love in our hearts for others. Let us help them, not cast them down. Pick up the fallen.

If we desire a reward at the end, we will keep on working. Pray for that living water and let us work for that reward that is coming to all the faithful. We won't get it by standing still. We must work out our souls' salvation with fear and trembling. We will be able if we keep drinking from that spiritual fountain. Let us always be conscious, day by day, of the welfare of our soul. May God help us all to be true and faithful to the end and we will reap a good reward.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE LEPERS AND THE LEPROSY

"And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be." Lev. 13:45-46.

"And behold, there came a leper and worshiped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth His

hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Matt. 8:2-3.

The groups of lepers to be seen sitting by the roadside as you approach the towns and cities of the Holy Land are one among the most painful and pitiable sights to be witnessed in Palestine. At Jaffa, at Ramleh, at Jerusalem, at Nazareth, at Damascus and at many other places I have seen these poor, deformed, miserable wrecks and remnants of humanity, sitting by the wayside with their deformities and unsightly sores exposed to public view crying out, in their abject poverty and misery, to the passers-by: "Poor, poor, unclean, unclean lepers; please help us; please give us alms." It is a sight that may move the hardest heart to pity and sympathy, and once seen is never to be forgotten. As it was in the days of Moses, so now the lepers are compelled to find lodging places outside the camp or the walls of town or city. At Jerusalem a lepers' home has been founded by good Christian people of Europe and the United States where the poverty-stricken, miserable lepers may find comparatively comfortable quarters. Previously they dwelt in the disused tombs around about Jerusalem. When one is known to have the leprosy he is at once separated from his family and driven from his home, and is virtually counted among the dead. If he have property it is administered upon, his estate is settled up and his home and his place know him no more. After the separation the leper finds his home with those similarly afflicted and becomes one of the leper community. He is shunned and dreaded by all who once knew him and lives on the alms given by travelers and those in the towns who are able and willing to help them. When the ten lepers met our Savior they lifted up their voices from afar in entreaty and supplication for help, perhaps with the thought that He would give them money; but He commanded them to go according to the law, and show themselves to the priests; and as they went, behold, they were healed. As then, so now, (1902) the leprosy is incurable except by a special manifestation of divine power; as then, so now, the lepers cry out, "Unclean, unclean," and raise their voices in entreaty for help as the traveler approaches them; as then, so now, they are shunned by all; they live apart as already described, and subsist on the charity of the benevolently disposed. For more than three thousand years the condition of the lepers in the Bible Lands has remained practically unchanged.

Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's
"The Eternal Verities"

OBITUARY**ELWIN COOK**

Bro. Elwin Dow Cook was born April 21, 1893, in Bridgewater Township, Williams County, Ohio, the son of Charles and Julia (Frisbie) Cook. He departed this life very peacefully in his home on Sunday evening, March 12, 1978, at the age of 84 years, 10 months, and 21 days.

The oldest of thirteen children, he spent his entire lifetime in this immediate area, having lived in his present home nearly fifty years.

On June 21, 1917, he was united in marriage to Loma Long at Hillsdale, Michigan. To this union were born two children; Arlo, of Tucson, Arizona, and Naomi, of Tecumseh, Michigan. Surviving in addition to his wife and two children, are eight grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Early in life he accepted Christ and was a charter member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church at the time of his death.

Funeral services at the Pleasant Ridge Church on Wednesday, March 15, 1978, were conducted by Elder Dean St. John, with Elder Harley Flory assisting. Burial was at the West Goshen Cemetery in Goshen, Indiana.

NEWS ITEMS**WEST FULTON, OHIO**

The Lord willing, the Lovefeast at West Fulton will be on Saturday evening, May 20. There will be services all day on Saturday and on Sunday forenoon.

You are welcome to attend these services.

Sister Leola Beck, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation plans, the Lord willing, for our Spring Lovefeast, Sunday, May 7th. Services will start at 9:30 in the morning with Lovefeast, proper, in the evening.

We invite all who can come to enjoy these services with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

THANK YOU

I want to thank each one who so kindly remembered me with gifts, flowers, plants, letters and cards during my stay in the hospital and after my return home. It meant so much to know I had so many wonderful Christian friends. The two scrap books have been a source of much joy. I also appreciate so very much the care given me by the workers at the Mt. Hope Home.

God has been very near and I thank Him for His healing power.

Sister Ruth Drake

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

MAY 15, 1978

NO. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A REVERIE

On Easter morn as we review
That hope was given for me and you —
When Jesus, our Lord was crucified,
And on the cruel cross He died
As a ransom for all sins.
That's where His redeeming grace begins.
He gave a plan for our salvation,
And asked that we tell every nation.
The Great Commission He gave to all
Who in Christ's name have been called
Go ye into all the world and teach
Living every day, so you may reach
The souls who have never heard
The promises of God's Holy Word.
And thus we serve in Christ's great plan
To bring rebirth to fallen man.

— Merle Hamilton

WEEDS

A look into the yard or garden will remind us of Adam's sin. Part of the price of his sin was the appearance of weeds, forcing man to sweat to rid the land of these loathsome plants. These weeds not only remind us of the sin of Adam, but also of the sin that so easily besets us. Weeds are, in many ways, similiar to the sins we are subject to.

When the weeds first make their appearance, it is often difficult to distinguish them from the plants we wish to encourage. We do not want to tear out good plants, so we leave the weeds. Soon the weed is well rooted and has spread itself beyond its original area. When the flower appears on the weed our worst suspicions are confirmed. We then decide to get rid of it. By now its seed has been spread so new weeds will soon appear where this one tiny, innocent-looking weed first appeared and it has harmed the good plants around it and has choked out the grass or deprived the good plant of sun, water and soil. When an effort is finally made to get rid of the weed, it is often so intertwined with the good that some of the good will be destroyed.

This picture of a weed agrees very well with the deceptiveness of sin. Sin, likewise, does not appear to be what it really is. It very subtly appears, almost as something that is good, until it has wrecked havoc before its true nature is discovered. It should not surprise us that this is so, when we consider that Satan, the father of lies and purveyor of sin, often appears as an angel of light.

Sin begins as an apparently innocent activity or object but soon it spreads so good is hampered or completely destroyed. Buying a

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certain vehicle, dwelling, appliance or knick knack may seem unrelated to our Spiritual life but soon a pride in that possession may develop and prove to be a downfall in our Christian life. Whenever we depart from a plain and modest style of life, we are making possible the growth and destructiveness of sin.

Sin is a lack of faith. When we begin to depend upon our own understanding, the philosophies of men or material wealth we are showing a lack of faith in God, His Word and His Way. Weeds grow in any kind of soil but they do their best in good soil. Sin grows best in the midst of prosperity. Prosperity surrounds us with many comforts and conveniences. We feel very secure in this prosperous condition so our dependence upon God is lessened.

It is a very difficult and disagreeable task to get rid of the weeds. Truly it demands the sweat of our brow. It takes alot of hoeing, pulling and cutting but if the effort is not made, the crop of weeds the next year will be even worse. Getting rid of sin, either personally or as a group of God's believing children, is a very difficult task also.

As an individual there are several things that need to be done to get rid of sin. It may not seem like an easy thing to do, but getting rid of any kind of weed is never easy, especially when they have been let go beyond the point of being pulled easily. A person needs meditation and examination to see where sin may have gotten a hold. It is good to look even when it appears there isn't any, for sin is so deceptive. Confession to God and a plea for His forgiveness is needed. If our sins concern others their forgiveness should also be sought. There should be a very solemn desire to get rid of anything, the offending habit, the object of pride or the self-centered idea, that leads away from God and the Church. When Jesus forgave the adulterous women He commanded her to go and sin no more. That must be our desire as well.

Since the Church is composed of individuals, if all would do the above the Church would have little problem with sin. But sin does get a foothold at times, because no attempt is made to put out sin when it first appears for fear of giving offense. Then when it can be ignored no longer, the putting away of the sin becomes a source of trouble and heartache in the Church. Sin spreads and entwines itself, so there are many sorrows and woes when the attempt is made to clean out the sin. Sometimes this splits not only Churches but even families, but our Saviour and His Word must be our greatest concern. We must love Him above the world and even above our closest flesh.

Weeds are very troublesome and cause us much trouble and work. But they can be valuable to us if, while we struggle against them, we can compare them to sin. Then might we struggle as determinedly against sin as we do against the weeds.

SLOW MOTION

Do you find yourself dragging your feet in the Lord's work? Perhaps your theme goes something like this: Put off until tomorrow anything which doesn't have to be done today. You have to be sure that a need is genuine that while you are questioning and doubting, someone else has to step in and take over for you. By the time you are satisfied in your own mind, the matter is taken care of — by someone else.

As slow as we are to move sometimes, it's a wonder that much of anything gets done in the Lord's service. If we are open to His direction, we are ready to act instantly when He points out what we are to do. We won't need two or three days or weeks to think about it and see if we think it's a good idea. We need to be good stewards of our time and money, but we need also to be open to the Spirit's direction and should move without questioning it.

The Lord is fully capable of directing your life and your ministry to others. Don't expect Him to reassure you over and over and over that you really should do thus and so. Something is wrong if you must keep saying, "Lord are you sure, really sure, that if I help this person that my gift will be used right? Are you sure their need is genuine?" Don't you believe God knows best, or didn't you listen to what He told you in the first place?

There are several types of excuses given for neglect of our duty. We may think like Moses that we can't talk or think fast enough, or that we are just no-bodies, like Gideon, but God used them anyhow. Jeremiah said, "I cannot speak, for I am a child," but God said, "Don't say that. You shall go when I send you and say what I tell you to." He used Jeremiah anyhow. None of these excuses were accepted.

The man with one talent didn't do anything with what was given to him. He just hid it and said he was afraid. In Matt. 25:44, these people didn't seem to know that anyone had a need and Jesus condemned them. He told them that if they had done it unto the least of His brethren, it was like doing it for Him. Jesus expects us to function where we are, whenever an opportunity comes. Ignoring the simplest need is the same as ignoring Christ.

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Rom. 13:10. "Working ill" can be an omission as well as a commission! Dragging your feet, moving in slow motion about doing something may cause problems for others. Poking around when you should be busy also indicates that you don't care very much. The Lord wants us to get busy when the opportunity is there and not put it off. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it

with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecc. 9:10. After we die, we can't do anything. The time to work is now!

Ananias wasn't sure that it was safe to go to Saul (Paul), but he went at the Lord's bidding and ministered to Saul, a chosen vessel of God. (Acts 9:10-18.) Waiting until we are absolutely sure before we act may mean we miss an opportunity and a soul may miss Heaven. We do need to be sure that God is directing us, but once He has assured us that it's His will, it's wrong to stand there and question it. We don't need to know all the whys and wherefores before we act.

Philip went to the desert at the Lord's bidding. It may have seemed like a silly thing to do, to go out in the middle of nowhere, but he went. There was a man there who needed Jesus — the eunuch. (Acts 8:26-39.) The eunuch had already been prepared by the Lord and he needed to hear about Christ. Philip's prompt response brought the blessing of salvation to a seeking heart. What if he had waited or not gone at all?

Cornelius, a Gentile, needed to hear about Christ and the Lord told him to send for Peter. Meanwhile, the Lord prepared Peter to accept the Gentiles. Peter was told to go, doubting nothing. If God hadn't prepared Peter, he would have been very hesitant about going, for Jews were not to keep company with Gentiles. Even though it was contrary to the established pattern, he moved as the Lord commanded, and a whole household was saved. Afterward, Peter was criticized, but he had done God's will and he knew it. He said, "What was I, that I could withstand God?"

"Go work today in my vineyard." (Matt. 21:28.) Peter and Andrew were called by Jesus and "straightway they forsook their nets and followed him." We should begin immediately to do whatever Jesus gives us to do. He gives each of us something to do (see Mark 13:34), and no matter how great or how small the task, it is always worth doing. "Your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15:58b. "She hath done what she could." Mark 14:8a. That is all that is asked of you, that you do what you can. He doesn't ask anything of you that you can't do in His strength.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. If you know you should do something and you move so slowly that it never gets finished or not even started, it is a sin. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." II Tim. 4:7. He didn't drag his feet and leave his job for someone else. He did all the Lord assigned to him and he knew a full blessing awaited him. A crown of righteousness was reserved for him.

If you were rewarded right now according to the way you've been responding to the Lord's direction, what would you get? Little, much or nothing? How many blessings would someone else get because you were too hesitant and you never did get in motion? Prompt response to a need can save many souls and eliminate further problems. Bad matters often are made worse because we don't do anything. In the Lord's work especially, make your goal, promptness, not slow motion.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

To be held at

MISSIONARY CHURCH CAMP GROUNDS

Ludlow Falls, Ohio

June 10-14, 1978

Time	Speaker	Subject	Text
Sat. P.M.	Virgil Leatherman	The Power of the World	II Tim. 4:10
Sat. P.M.	Robert Carpenter	Long Suffering	Luke 13:6-9
Sat. Eve.	Paul Reed	To Be Supplied	
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School	Children - Stephen	Acts 6-7
Sun. A.M.	Howard Surbey	Borderline Believers	Gen. 19
Sun. A.M.	Joseph E. Flora	Foundations	I Cor. 3:10-11, Luke 6:48-49
Sun. P.M.	Melvin Roesch		Jer. 2:11
Sun. P.M.	James Kegerreis	Our Spiritual Habitation	Heb. 12
Sun. Eve.	H. Edward Johnson	To Be Supplied	
Sun. Eve.	Dean St. John	To the Young People	
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study	Children - Philip and the Eunuch	Acts 8:26-40
		Adults - Philemon	
Mon. A.M.	Milton Cook	Wrest The Scriptures	II Pet. 3:16
Mon. P.M.	Eldon Mallow	Are You Looking Back?	Luke 9:62
Mon. P.M.	Rudy Cover	I Found Jesus	John 4:28-29
Mon. Eve.	Harley Flory	To Be Supplied	
Mon. Eve.	Charles Leatherman	Pleasures For A Season	Heb. 11:25
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study	Children-Paul's Conversion	
		Adults - Jude	Acts 9:1-12
Tues. A.M.	David Kegerreis	To Be Supplied	
Tues. P.M.	Fred Pifer	To Be Supplied	
Tues. P.M.	Alvin Chupp	To Be Supplied	
Tues. Eve.	Harley Rush	Missions	Acts 8:5-17

THE SCATTERED FLOCK

For many long years the old shepherd had tended his flock. Carefully he had fed and sheltered them. When they wandered away, he had brought them back, and if necessary he punished them. How else would they learn to stay in the fold? But always he did so kindly, and the sheep loved him.

The grass grew green in the meadow. Here the songbirds sang and built their nests in the trees beside the brook. Here the rabbits played and hopped about in the early morning. Here was peace and safety under the watchful eye of the shepherd.

Beyond the boundary lines of the pasture, in the distance, were the dangerous cliffs, the quicksand, and the swampy marshland. There in the dark woods the wild beasts roamed. There, too, was the steep precipice where a sheep could fall and be torn on the rocks below.

The shepherd had often gathered his flock together and warned them of the wolf, and how he lay waiting to attack the flock and rend to pieces the young lambs, or to lure a stray sheep away.

Even now as they lay in sheltered safety, the sheep could hear the dismal howls of the wolf, or the piteous cry of some hapless creature he had caught. The cries echoing through the valley caused the sheep to huddle closer together.

The wolf was cunning, the Master told them. Sometimes he had been known to approach the flock, dressed as a sheep. Unless the sheep were always watchful, they might be deceived and lured away.

At this some of the younger sheep murmured among themselves, "Does the Master really know what he is talking about?"

"How can a wolf disguise himself as a sheep?"

Indeed, it seemed impossible.

"I would recognize his voice, surely," said one.

"Why, one could always look at his feet!" exclaimed another. And so they talked among themselves.

And then one day a summons came for the old shepherd. He had known for some time that it would not be long. His eyes had grown dim, his hair turned gray, his steps became feeble.

It was hard for the shepherd to leave his flock. How he loved them! Yet he longed to go to that country to be with his Lord and King. So when the summons came, he quietly went.

The sheep knew nothing about it until the next morning when the young Master came to feed them. Their hearts were heavy with the burden of grief. None of them felt like eating. Quietly they

talked among themselves. Even though the Old Master was no longer with them, they would stand together as he had taught them. They would continue to study the book of directions as the shepherd had admonished them.

"We must always beware of the wolf," said one sheep.

"And watch the lambs," said another.

"Let us stay contentedly in our pasture," said one, who in his lambhood days had strayed away and nearly tumbled over the great cliff.

"Above all, we must love another." Here they all nodded, and one added, "Yes, and that means we must love and obey the great King, whose sheep we are."

"See how sad the young Master looks."

"He is still so young, for such a great task."

The young shepherd determined in his heart to do his best. It had not been his choosing, the care of all these sheep, but the great King had assigned him this work and he wanted to be faithful. He was young and eager, and he pored over the great Book as he tended the flock. True, he was not as wise and patient as the old shepherd had been, but he would learn.

Time passed. The seasons came and went. Always the sheep were glad for the spring. After the sharp cold winds of winter, how pleasant it was to feel the warm sunshine. Then the rains came, watering, refreshing, renewing the earth. The meadow bloomed with wild flowers, and the tiny spears of grass grew like a rich soft carpet before them. Contentedly they grazed the meadow under the watchful eyes of the young shepherd.

But changes were coming. Gradually the howls of the wolf had lessened. Days passed that he was not seen slinking through the bushes and trees. The time came when at night the sheep slept, hearing only the crickets and the whippoorwills from the deep woods. The wolf was not heard.

Subconsciously, the sheep relaxed. They stayed within the pasture boundaries, but at night why draw so closely together if the wolf was not near? The shepherd urged them to draw nearer together, for had not the old shepherd warned them against this very thing?

What had become of the wolf? He had howled and raged as he tried to break into the fold, but the more noise he had made the closer together the sheep had drawn. He longed to sink his teeth into a tender young sheep, but he seldom had the opportunity.

Too, the shepherd was always watching for him, ready to send a sharp arrow in his direction. The wolf gnashed his teeth together in

very fury as he saw the flock grazing so peacefully on the meadow. His eyes gleamed with hate as he crouched on a rock and watched from a distance.

He would try a new plan! Perhaps he could capture more sheep with cunning than he could with howling. But it would be long, slow work. The wolf was desperate and there was bitter hate in his heart.

He no longer howled as he slunk through the shadows. He would keep his distance for a time, until the sheep had forgotten their fear and were not so nervous.

One evening as the flock settled peacefully on the hillside, a strange sheep emerged from the shadows. His wool was matted, and his appearance was generally unkept. Quietly, he settled beside one of the sheep that lay a little apart from the others. As darkness fell, he murmured to the sheep lying near. And the sheep dozing off was too sleepy to really be aware of what was happening.

From time to time the strange sheep would be with the flock, coming and going so quietly, with such cunning and care that the shepherd was not aware of his presence. In the early morning, or at dusk when the shadows were lengthening, he would be there.

It was a busy time for the shepherd. As the flock grew larger, it was hard to care for so many sheep, so the shepherd was given two helpers to assist him. Some of the sheep were unable to care for their young, and this caused the shepherds even more work. Now and again, as they went about their tasks, the shepherds fancied that they saw a strange sheep among the flock. But when they went to see, they found nothing.

The older sheep died, and the younger ones came along to take their place. Gradually, little by little, the flock became used to the stranger who came and went so slyly. They hardly looked up as he drew near.

The strange sheep rarely spoke. When he did, his voice was harsh. He never baa'ed as did the other sheep.

One evening as a young sheep bent at the pool for a drink, the strange one drew near. He too appeared to drink, and then —

"Ah! Look at your reflection in the water! If only I had such soft white wool. What a lovely sheep you are."

The sheep was startled. She had never noticed herself in the water, and no sheep had ever spoken thus.

"It is too bad that pretty wool has to be cut."

As the young sheep looked around, the stranger was gone. The young one turned back and glanced into the pool again. What the

stranger had said was true. Her image was quite pleasing to the sight.

"Why is it that you're pushed back? You're older than the ones that get to go first," whispered the stranger, this time to a young ram.

The young ram was startled. Had he dreamed? But he saw nothing, so he closed his eyes again.

But the thought came back. Why indeed, must he always follow others?

The strange sheep returned. "The shepherd means well," he said, "but he shows partiality, does he not? Why does he put the younger ones first? Such a fine sheep as you are, you should be one of the leaders."

Again, the stranger came to another sheep, "See how fresh and green the grass is out yonder. Too bad you're not allowed to eat it."

"But the cliff is there, and the wild beasts. The wolf..." The sheep shuddered, unable to finish the sentence for fear. "This.. this is good enough for me."

To some sheep, the stranger never, or seldom, came. He learned to know which ones would listen to him without growing suspicious.

It was slow work for the wolf, but he kept on, a leering grin on his face beneath the sheepskin. Watching his chance, he drew near first to one sheep, then another, with flattering words. More and more he would drop a word here, a word there about the shepherd, planting doubts until some of the sheep no longer fully trusted their shepherd.

Sometimes he would come with a grieved expression, "Mother sheep, what a fine daughter you have! Why then is it that the lady sheep's daughter over there has a much bigger bell than your daughter? Injustice!"

Thus he sowed the seeds of discontent and jealousy, causing some sheep to look with distrust and envy at their neighbors. In others he planted pride. Ere long one fair young sheep would only eat grass in company with certain others. All the rest she looked upon with disdain. Their hoofs were not so shiny, or as dainty as her own. Their wool was not so white. Gradually these few young sheep became very bold, disregarding first one sheep rule and another. One day they were seen outside the meadow boundary. In great consternation the shepherds herded them back. But harm had been done, and they must be punished.

And where were the older sheep all this while? Sorry to say, some were quarreling among themselves, or siding with others

against the shepherds. It had happened slowly. Who knew when the first little rift had been made? It was apparent there was serious trouble among the older sheep.

The shepherd's heart was filled with a terrible dread. His sheep quarreling? When he tried to settle the quarrel, the sheep were soon heaping upon him grievous faults, holding up past mistakes he had made. The sheep wanted more freedom. They wanted the pasture limits extended, so the young sheep would be more content.

The shepherd called a meeting with his helpers. But one took up for the rebellious sheep. "Why not give them more freedom to roam?" he said.

"But the old shepherd put these lines here," said the shepherd. "It is according to the Book of Directions, and for the good of the flock."

"That was long ago," stated the helper. "Times have changed. Can't you see how narrow-minded some of our sheep have become? Give them more room to graze. The grass is luscious and green out yonder. They will see the cliff before they get too close. It will make them more cautious, and they'll be better and stronger."

"But they will forget," objected the shepherd. "Besides, at some places the ground is treacherous, and the wild beasts are there. Why should we place them in more danger?"

The sheep were soon aware that there was disunity among the shepherd and his helpers. This did not help matters at all. No longer did they graze peacefully on the hillside. Instead, they were scattered in groups, whispering among themselves.

True, there were still some sheep who meekly grazed and followed the shepherd faithfully. They were looked down upon by some, while others would come and try to persuade them to join the discontented sheep. A few of the younger sheep became boisterous and loud, a thing never heard of before in the flock.

Some sheep wanted larger bells. Others wanted bells with more musical tones. Some wanted a new kind of oil for their hoofs. Some, their wool cut a certain way, and some did not want their wool cut at all. How confusing it all was, especially to the young lambs.

The boundary line was still there but it was trampled down. More and more sheep went out to graze, and wandering farther from the fold, did not return at night.

As for the wolf, his howls were heard again at night, but the sheep were so taken up with quarreling they no longer seemed to heed him.

"I can't see that any harm has befallen that sheep," a sheep within the boundary line would say, as he glanced outward toward those grazing near the cliffs. More and more sheep left. A few came back after seeing the terrible dangers, and tried to warn the others. Some listened, but not many.

Now and again a sheep would wander too far and be dashed to pieces on the rocks below. Others sank into the quicksand.

At last the wolf was in fiendish delight. His scheme had taken a long time, but it had worked. How easy it was now to catch these silly sheep. Some he left grazing out near the cliffs to lure the others out. Others he would catch in the darkness, and rend to pieces. Oh, he was wily.

But even though he had torn the flock apart, he was not satisfied. The hate in his heart burned higher than ever. The little flock that remained, he must scatter it too.

More than one dark night the shepherd had wept. Without the help of the older sheep, it had been impossible to train the lambs. Many a night the shepherd did not sleep at all, but read and reread the Book of his calling. The sheep had been entrusted to him by his King, and now they were mostly scattered, except for a small faithful flock.

He had not warned them enough! The sheep beyond were a constant temptation to the younger sheep. Perhaps, with the King's counsel, he should move them to a safer pasture...

But it was sad to think of leaving the beautiful meadow. The shepherd wept as he remembered those peaceful and happy days of yore.

Many years later some shepherds traveled through that part of the country. "Yes, this is where the wise old shepherd tended his flock so many years," said one. They gazed sadly at the rotting shelter that had once protected so many sheep from the cold winds and snow. The meadow was overgrown with tall grasses and weeds. Bushes and brambles had sprung up. Snakes slithered through the grasses, robbing birds' nests. As the shepherds traveled on, here and there they saw sheep bones bleaching in the sun. Or they caught a glimpse of a wild, unkept sheep bounding away. Nearby they saw the skeleton of a sheep that had been caught in the brambles and had starved to death. The hearts of the visiting shepherds were filled with an unutterable sadness because of the flock that had once been, but now was scattered.

Selected from *The Young Companion*
by Sister Theresa King

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

A MAN NAMED SAUL

I SAMUEL 9

Israel wanted a king and God told Samuel, "Give them a king." There was a man of the tribe of Benjamin whose name was Kish and he had a son whose name was Saul. Saul was an exceptional young man. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. The Bible says he was a choice young man and the best among the children of Israel.

The donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. They had wandered off and Saul was told to take a servant and find the donkeys. So off they went. They went to Mt. Ephraim; then through the land of Shalim and Shalisha; then through the land of Zoff and the land of the Benjamites; and still no donkeys. Saul thought they should return home because his father would be worrying about them, but his servant said, "There is in this city a man of God and what he says comes to pass; let us go to him and possibly he can show us the way we should go."

After deciding they could give the prophet some silver for his advice, they started toward the city where the man of God lived. As they went up the hill to the city they saw some young girls going out to get water and they asked, "Is the Seer here?" (In those days a prophet was called a seer.) The girls answered, "He is just ahead of you. Hurry, if you wish to see him, because today there is a sacrifice of the people. As soon as you come into the city you will find him. The people will not eat until he comes and blesses the sacrifice."

When they came into the city the prophet, who was Samuel, came out to meet them. Now the Lord had told Samuel, the day before, that He would send him a man out of the land of Benjamin and that Samuel should anoint him to be king over Israel. When they came near to Samuel, Saul asked where he could find the seer. Samuel said, "I am the seer. Go with me unto the high place; for you shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart. As for the donkeys that were lost; don't worry about them, for they are found." Then Samuel said something that surprised Saul, "And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?" Saul answered, "Am I not a Benjamite of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin?"

Saul, at this time, was a good, young man. Later he became king of Israel and eventually was proud, selfish and jealous. It seems too bad that he could not have stayed the good, young man that he was.

Does God have a purpose for you? Yes, He does. God has a work for each of us. Will you let Jesus take control of your heart? He will make you what you ought to be.

Brother Rudy Cover

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 10-14, 1978

Directions to the Missionary Church Camp Grounds at Ludlow Falls, Ohio which is on Route 48 just north of junction with route 55. All who travel Interstate 75 coming from north or south get off at Route 55, go to Ludlow Falls, turn north on Route 48 to grounds. Those coming on Interstate 70 from east or west get off at Route 48, go north to grounds. Those coming from the north on Route 127 take 571 to West Milton then Route 48 north to Ludlow Falls, this is due to a bridge being out, just north of Ludlow Falls.

By plane come to Cox Municipal Airport at Vandalia, Ohio. Call campgrounds for someone to pick you up. The telephone number is 698-3079. Bedding is available on the grounds for those who are unable to bring it with them. All others please bring your own bedding. Extra cots are needed so bring if convenient.

There will be room for campers. Campers will be appreciated in helping to care for extra lodging.

Is your reservation in? If not, send now to Bro. Paul Stump, Rt. 1, Union, Ohio 45322.

NOTICE

Those bringing offerings for General Conference expense to General Conference should hand them to any member of the Trustee Board. If you do not desire individual record you may place your offering for General Conference expense in the offering boxes. Make checks payable to Elder Paul Blocher, treasurer.

Trustee Board:

Elder Dale Jamison, Chairman

Elder Paul Blocher, Treasurer

Elder Ray Reed, Secretary

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

Add to the ministerial list: Elder Paul R. Myers, Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630. His telephone number is 216-499-6080.

The new telephone number of Elder Harley Flory is 419-497-3953. His address is unchanged.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mechanicsburg Congregation is praying and looking forward to enjoying a Holy Ghost Revival beginning June 16, 1978 and to continue for ten days. One of our ministers, Brother John Pepper, will be our evangelist. All are welcome to come and enjoy these services with us. Please pray for these meetings that many might be saved in these last days. Pray for the speaker that he might not shun to declare the whole Gospel.

Sister Mary Hartz, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation once again enjoyed a series of revival meetings, March 19 to April 2, with Bro. Jack Snyder as our evangelist. These meetings were very well attended. Bro. Snyder brought to us Spirit-filled messages. Let us apply these sermons to our daily living that we might be drawn closer to the Lord in these last days.

We were made to rejoice for the four precious young souls who gave their hearts to the Lord.

We were happy to have Sis. Miriam and children worshipping with us during these meetings. May the Lord bless Bro. Snyder in his labors as he preaches from time to time and may he have many more years in the service of the Master.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE

June 4 — The Light of the World. John 8:12-32.

June 11 — Children of the Devil. John 8:33-47.

June 18 — "Greater Than Abraham?" John 8:48-59.

June 25 — TEMPERANCE. I Cor. 9:1-27.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) Did the Jews know that Jesus was the Son of God when they had crucified Him? John 8:28.
- (2) What makes a person a slave to Satan? John 8:34.
- (3) Was Jesus older than Abraham? John 8:58.
- (4) What virtue do we need to have control and be a master of ourselves? I Cor. 9:25.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JUNE, 1978

COUNSEL

Memory Verse: Jer. 23:22

But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

Thur. 1-Jer. 18:1-23

Fri. 2-Jer. 19:1-15

Sat. 3-Jer. 23:1-20

Memory Verse: Eze. 7:26

Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

Sun. 4-Jer. 23:21-40

Mon. 5-Jer. 32:1-25

Tues. 6-Jer. 32:26-44

Wed. 7-Jer. 38:1-28

Thur. 8-Jer. 50:33-46

Fri. 9-Eze. 7:1-27

Sat. 10-Eze. 11:1-25

Memory Verse: Hosea 11:6

And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour them, because of their own counsels.

Sun. 11-Dan. 2:1-23

Mon. 12-Dan. 2:24-49

Tues. 13-Dan. 4:1-18

Wed. 14-Dan. 4:19-37

Thur. 15-Hos. 4:1-19

Fri. 16-Hos. 10:1-15

Sat. 17-Hos. 11:1-12

Memory Verse: Mic. 4:12

But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor.

Sun. 18-Mic. 4:1-13

Mon. 19-Mic. 6:1-16

Tues. 20-Zec. 6:1-15

Wed. 21-Math. 22:15-40

Thur. 22-Math. 27:1-26

Fri. 23-Math. 28:1-20

Sat. 24-Mark 3:1-30

Memory Verse: Luke 7:30

But the Pharisees and lawyers rejecter the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

Sun. 25-Luke 7:1-30

Mon. 26-Luke 23:32-56

Tues. 27-John 11:32-57

Wed. 28-John 18:1-24

Thur. 29-Acts 2:1-24

Fri. 30-Acts 4:1-31

Memory Verses: John 18:14

Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man shall die for the people.

Acts 2:23

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

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JUNE 1, 1978

NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ONCE MORE WE COME BEFORE OUR GOD

Once more we come before our God,
Once more His blessing ask:
Oh, may not duty seem a load,
Nor worship prove a task.
Father, Thy quick'ning Spirit send
On us in Jesus' name,
To make our waiting minds attend,
And put our souls in frame.
May we receive the Word we hear,
Each in an honest heart;
Hoard up the precious treasure there,
And never with it part.
To seek Thee, all our hearts dispose;
To each Thy blessing suit;
And let the seed Thy servant sows,
Produce abundant fruit.
The thirsty bless with heav'nly show'rs,
The cold with warmth divine;
And as the benefit is ours,
Be all the glory Thine.

— Joseph Hart

GENERAL CONFERENCE

In a few days, the Lord willing, Brethren and Sisters from all parts of the Brotherhood will be gathering for another General Conference. This meeting assumes a very large place in the lives of the members and families of the Church. Those who have formed the habit of attending Conference often measure the year's advance either as so many months since Conference or as so many months until the coming Conference. The five days of Conference have an influence beyond just the business transacted for it is a combination of sermons, songs, prayers, fellowship and enjoyment of the assembling of those of like precious faith.

The Church has enjoyed these annual meetings for more than two hundred and thirty years. What our forefathers established they established well. In the beginning the Conference was mostly a conference among the Elders from across the Brotherhood. With visiting Elders in the area preaching services were held in congregations near the location of the Conference. Before long a public preaching program became an integral part of the yearly meeting.

For the convenience of the Brethren in the far-flung Brotherhood, the places of holding the Conference shifted back and forth between the various regions. This willingness to sacrifice a little so that others could benefit from being closer to the meeting was a means of strengthening the bonds of fellowship. This worked toward union amongst the members as they traveled back and forth to various locations. The love of the Brethren is always strengthened when they can be with each other in their homes and their home congregations.

The Conference has worked toward union within the Church. Although impatience and individual failings have on occasion

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JUNE 1, 1978

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darkened the proceedings of this meeting, it has fostered union and peace based upon Gospel principles among the Brethren. The Brethren's Conference was built upon the pattern of the Conference held at Jerusalem as recorded in Acts 15. The Early Christians had a serious problem with those who tried to superimpose the old Jewish law upon Christianity. This created a great disturbance which called forth this first Conference. There the policy and polity of the Church was set. The standard of the Church was raised so all could come to it in union. If the Church in the days of the Apostles had such troubles, it is little to wonder at that the Church, today also has troubles. The Church through the Conference today sets forth her standard of unity. All can unite with her, knowing her doctrine and practice.

The Conference has acted many times to heal or to prevent schism. In the early decades of the nineteenth century, when much of this country was a frontier, an informal division occurred between some of the frontier Congregations of the West and the Church in the East. Through the lack of communication and travel several differences had arisen. The Church's peace was threatened as more of the eastern members began to settle near those Far-Western Brethren. The yearly meeting encouraged union by sending a committee to meet with the Western Brethren and by adopting a plan of union. The Annual Meeting in a similar way healed a breach in the Church in the South a decade later.

Conference often moves slowly on matters that threaten the peace and union of the members. It is better to move slowly and preserve good feeling and cooperation than to move quickly and drive away members. Too often that accomplished in haste has harmed rather than united the body.

General Conference continues to work toward union in the Brotherhood. In the consideration of the problems that affect the Brotherhood the decision of Conference, based upon Biblical teachings and past decisions, can be put forth as a unifying force. The holding of the Conference from year to year strengthens the ties of brotherhood and love between those who attend. In the months or years, Brethren are isolated from each other, their love may cool and they may grow to distrust one another but when assembled together at Conference they have their love rekindled and find their differences are not nearly as serious or deep as they had supposed. Just the fact that the Church has a yearly Conference means that it is working toward an increase in Christian love and unity.

As another General Conference draws nigh, might it be the prayer of each that this assembly may be blessed by God and that the members will be strengthened in evangelism and increased in Plain, Biblical and holy Christian living.

GOING TO CONFERENCE

I wonder how many will be able to attend the Conference, June 10-14, 1978. Each day we will be able to meet the dear Brothers and Sisters of like precious faith. We will be able to hear the wonderful messages of Salvation. To me this will be a wonderful time if the Lord is willing that we again are able to be together. We are not to be ashamed of being followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. We, as members of the Dunkard Brethren Church, can rejoice because our names are recorded in Heaven. We know, "... the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit,..." Hebrews 4:12. As we arrive for Conference, let us ask the Lord for help so we will be able to receive all the wonderful messages, we will hear each day. If we ask, we will receive; if we seek, it will be revealed to us.

I feel each member who belongs to Christ and His beloved Church should make every effort possible to attend and see that their children also attend. I would do without almost anything, so I could attend Conference. It means so much to me. I believe we can hold our children better in the Church if we take them to Conference, because after they are together for five days in this wonderful meeting they will have a greater love for the Lord and His beloved Church. Here they hear sermons directed by the Holy Spirit, that builds each up and makes each feel so happy to have Christ dwelling within. These sermons touch the heart and make each feel he wants to live closer to the Lord. Here our boys and girls mingle with others their own age, meet alot of new people and have a wonderful fellowship together. So many of the preachers today are out preaching for the money. It seems all they care about is counting numbers, not souls being won to Christ. Many who once claimed baptism was necessary, now have gone with those who say you can be saved with nothing being required of you. But we cannot find this in the Bible. One must repent and be baptized so his sins will be washed away. I feel this is one reason why parents with children should try their best to get them to meetings where the Gospel is preached and the commandments are kept.

This meeting at Conference, once a year, remains in the mind of young and old for a long time. So let us all do all we can to make this a Conference that will bring honor and praise to the One who died for us. If we believe in Christ and follow Him we will have everlasting life, a home in Heaven. If we hunger and thirst after righteousness we will be filled. Matthew 5:6. Let us go to the Lord in prayer and seek His help. When our help comes from on High, all things will work out to His Honor and Glory.

Sister E. M. Alltus

GET INVOLVED!

We tend to think that people can, by an act of will, live a better life if they really want to. Yet, some are so bound by Satan's power that they can't get away; they've failed so many times that success, even with Jesus, looks impossible. It will take someone with a message of hope, someone who gets involved enough to show them Jesus, to help them. It takes more than just desiring a better life — it takes Jesus to set them free. Therein is victory.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13. Salvation is available to all and we are not to be choosy about whom we tell of Jesus. No one is too sinful or too dirty physically or too mean and nasty to be saved. Teaching skid-row bums may be distasteful, but Jesus loves their souls and so should you. Jesus can purify that mind and heart, regardless of what the exterior is like, and will make him or her appealing in every way. All He asks is that you get involved enough to tell them of His love.

When someone needs you, you are needed now, not two days later. If you wait until the house is cleaned or the chores are done, it may be too late. When a soul is hanging in the balance, what does it matter whether those things are done or not? Our work or other project will wait until we can get back to it, but a soul in despair can't wait. The good Samaritan got involved as soon as he saw the need and he stayed with it until the need was fulfilled. He didn't leave his task half done. He ignored any social barriers and did what he knew needed to be done. He really got involved. Will you?

Naaman's maid got involved even though she had reason to be bitter. Naaman had leprosy, a dreaded disease, and she had compassion for him. She told her mistress about the man of God who could help him. She was a slave, separated from her people, yet there was no resentment. Rather than being glad he was in trouble, she wanted to help her master. Elisha got involved also, but not for personal reward. In fact, he refused it, knowing God deserved the praise. Gehazi, Elisha's servant, wanted to get involved for the glory of it — the reward — and he even lied to get it, thereby bringing condemnation on himself. We should get involved because God directs us to and we want to please Him; personal reward should not be our motive.

Naaman thought it was beneath his dignity to dip himself in the dirty Jordan river, even though it was for his own benefit. Do you think doing certain things for someone is beneath your dignity so you wiggle and squirm to get out of it, until God pins you right

down and you must do it? You don't really want to get involved but you know you should, so you finally give in. Peter was told to do something each time he affirmed his love for Christ. (John 21:15-18). When he asked "And what shall this man do?" Jesus replied, "What is that to thee? Follow THOU me." He gives us each a task and we shouldn't try to get out of it even if we don't like it. It was beneath Christ's dignity to die on the Cross, but He did it anyway - without complaining!

Naaman's servants said, "My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it?" II Kings 5:13. Are you sitting around waiting for the Lord to give you some spectacular job to do? Is that why you haven't gotten involved? Sometimes the insignificant tasks are more important in the long run. If you do those well, it is likely that the Lord will give you a greater task the next time. But if He can't trust you with the little things, how can He trust you with greater ones, especially when souls are involved?

When you reach out to someone who needs help and you really get involved, you may find that you don't have any answers. It may seem threatening to discover that the so-called "pat" answers are of little worth. You know what God's Word says, but how to apply it? Kindly show them (please do be kind; Jesus was) if they don't already know what His Word says. Then let God give them the answers. Each person has to make his own decisions. Your part is to care enough to get involved.

Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matt. 4:19. Whenever you go fishing, you must get involved and you must go where the fish are. They will come to your bait, but they won't come out of the water to you. So it is with people. You must get close to where they are, you must get involved in order to help them. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2. You can't bear another's burdens unless you are close enough to that person to know what his burden and need is.

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matt. 9:38. If you are unable to get involved in the Lord's work in any other way, you can get involved through prayer. You can pray that the Lord will send out workers, that He will give them a burden for the lost. You can support these workers by your prayers and encouragement. Don't discount your service, just because you are in the background.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10. When the Lord sends someone to you, get involved. Don't turn away. You must get involved in order to be used by the Lord. He

wants you to have compassion, to be kind and understanding, as much as you can. The friends of the man sick of palsy had compassion and they got involved. They made it possible for him to be in the presence of Jesus. This is the best we can do for someone, to help that one come into the presence of Jesus. When you have done this and you see the joy someone has, then you will know it's worth it to really get involved.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

SOME MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

Some minutes in the morning
Ere the cares of life begin,
Ere the heart's door wide is open
For the world to enter in.

Oh, then alone with Jesus,
In the silence of the morn,
In heavenly, sweet communion
Let your every day be born.

In the quietude that blesses,
With a prelude of repose,
Let your soul be soothed and softened
As the dew revives the rose.

Some minutes in the morning,
Take your Bible in your hand,
And catch a glimpse of glory
From the peaceful promised land.

It will linger still before you
When you seek the busy mart,
And like flowers of hope will blossom
Into beauty in your heart.

The precious words like jewels
Will glisten all the day
With a rare refulgent glory
That will brighten all the way.

Selected by Sister Ruth Drake



There is something better than understanding God, and that is trusting Him.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

CHANGED INTO ANOTHER MAN

I SAMUEL 9:22 - 10:12

Would you like to be a king? Saul was just an ordinary person whom the Lord chose to be Israel's first man-king. God had been their king but Israel wanted a king like other nations. God told Samuel to make Saul King of Israel.

Samuel met Saul and his servant and invited them to his home. He had them sit in the best seats and fed them with the best of food. The houses of that day had flat roofs. In the evening it was the custom to go up on the rooftop where it was cool and comfortable. Samuel talked with Saul that evening. Saul slept that night on the house top.

Early in the morning Samuel called Saul and his servant and went with them to the edge of town. Samuel told Saul to stay with him awhile and tell his servant to pass on. When Samuel and Saul were alone, Samuel took a bottle of oil and poured it upon Saul's head and kissed him and said, "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you to be captain over his inheritance?" Samuel was telling Saul that the Lord had chosen him to be King of Israel.

Samuel revealed to Saul that he would meet a company of prophets, the Spirit would come upon him and he would prophesy with them. Saul would be turned into another man. This was to be a sign to Saul that God was with him. Samuel also told him to wait seven days until he would come and offer sacrifices and show him what he should do.

All this happened to Saul. The Bible says God gave Saul another heart. When he met the prophets the Spirit of God came upon him and he prophesied among them.

God blessed Saul in a special way to become the King of Israel. Saul could have been a wise and good king if he would only have let God control his life. Do you want God to change you into a different person? He will if you will let Him come into your heart. Jesus died on the cross so that you could have your sins forgiven. When Jesus makes a better person out of you — stay that way. Trust Jesus to make your decisions in life and you will be a child of God.

Brother Rudy Cover



To let God is belief; to let go is surrender.

THE INDWELLING CHRIST

In Ephesians 3:17, we read of Christ dwelling in our heart. In consideration of this thought, it pictures coming into a home and settling down there. A believer has to ask himself whether Jesus can be comfortable in his heart.

Think of your heart as a home and Christ is coming to live there. He might ask to go through it and acquaint himself with the rooms. First He would go to the library. This is the control room where all the thoughts are stored. If Jesus finds evil, untruth, and trash there, it has to go. In the library there needs to be a portrait of Jesus, a constant reminder that He is there, at the center of your consciousness.

The dining room might be visited next. This is the room of appetites and desires. If Jesus finds there only worldly delights served on a silver platter, He will say, "If you want food that really satisfies, seek the will of my Father. Your appetite should be to do His will."

Next we enter the living room, that place representing fellowship, conversation and sharing. Too many times we rush right through this room in the morning and never stop to talk to Christ. We are just too busy! As a guest in our house, He wants our fellowship, our communication in prayer.

In our workshop Jesus sees many toys and trinkets that we make with our tools. He wants us to use these talents and abilities for the kingdom of God, not the trivial things of this life. As Jesus dwells in the heart, He has to control this room too.

Having toured our heart, the Savior might return upstairs, only to find an undesirable odor coming from the hall closet. This closet represents our secret sins. We are upset! After all, if Jesus controls all of the other rooms, isn't that enough? Jesus asks us to open that door too. It is full of secret sins, things we didn't want to turn over to Jesus. But they, too, have to go. Only when Jesus controls every room of our heart will He be at home there.

Isn't it a wonderful condescension that He is willing to leave the infinite majesty of Heaven and make His home in our heart? "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:23.

Let us daily prepare our hearts that we might know His incomprehensible love.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Quinter, Kansas

IF NOBODY SMILED

If nobody smiled, and nobody cheered,
and nobody helped us along,
If each, every minute, looked after himself,
and the good things all went to the strong;
If nobody cared just a little for you,
and nobody thought of me,
And we all stood alone in the battle of life,
What a dreary old world this would be.

— Author unknown

Selected by Sister Della Klepinger

I GO TO CHURCH

I love thy Church, O God!
Her walls before Thee stand
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

— Timothy Dwight

I Go To Church In Spite of Its Members.

Some go to church just for a walk,
Some go there to laugh and talk;
Some go there to gain a lover,
Some go there their faults to cover!
Some go there for observation,
Some go there for speculation,
Some go there to sleep and nod,
But few go there to worship God.

"Some time ago, one of our popular magazines carried an article on the subject, 'Why I Don't Go to Church.' The author, a man who displayed a fearful need of some knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, asked a young divinity student this question, 'What does the church have to offer which I cannot get elsewhere?' The student made this wise and all-sufficient answer: 'The church offers you Jesus Christ, and He is not offered to you anywhere else in the world.' "

Every Church has:

1. Pillars — Worship regularly, giving time and money.
2. Supporters — Give time and money if they like the pastor and treasurer.
3. Leaners — Use the church for funerals, baptisms and marriages, but give no time or money to support the church.

4. Working Leaners — Work but do not give money.
5. Specials — Help and give occasionally for something that appeals to them.
6. Annuals or Easter Birds — Dress up, look serious and go to church on Easter.
7. Sponges — Take all blessings and benefits, ... but give no money to support the church.
8. Tramps — Go from church to church but support none.
9. Gossips — Talk freely about everyone except the Lord Jesus.
10. Scrappers — Take offense, criticize and fight.
11. Orphans — Are children sent by parents who do not set them an example.
12. Backsliders — Go back and walk no more with Jesus (John 6:66).
13. Hypocrites — Leaners who say they are better than churchgoers.

— The Messenger

I Attend a Bible-Believing Church, Not Just a Social Club.

There was a church in our town,
And it was worldly wise;
It tried to pay the preacher
By selling cakes and pies.
The Sisters made the ice cream
To send the Gospel far;
They ladled out the oyster stew
And raffled off a car.
They had a "harmless" game of cards
To make the social pay;
And then a dance for timid souls
Who were too tired to pray.
The effort was a great success
From floor to lightning rod;
The church has everything it needs,
Except the peace of God.

I Go To Church Because of the Blessing I Receive.

"I am your family pew:
I came across the ocean with your forefathers.
I have followed the march of peoples wherever they have
gone.

I was warmed by the presence of those who would worship the living God.

I am more than a board — I am an institution.

I have extended my comfort to saint and sinner: I have felt the heart-throbs of those who sought the presence of God.

I have had a place in rude hut or log church: I have been made beautiful in the majesty of the sanctuary.

I have seen the bloodstains of those who fought for liberty.

I have made my contribution to the welfare of those who stood for truth and righteousness.

Often I have been deserted by men who sought softer seats; men turn from me at their own peril; if they forget me, they may lose their own souls.

I am your family pew, — I can be useful only as I am occupied.

I am waiting for you to come back to the house of God."

— David Hardy Deen

I Go To Church Because It Is Scriptural.

In Hebrews 10:25 we read, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." The Psalmist declared, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1. "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psalm 84:10. The Apostle Paul tells us, "...Christ... loved the church, and gave himself for it." Ephesians 5:25. My friend, I'm too busy to go to church. What about you? If you are too busy or too tired to attend church regularly, you are just too busy to die; but you will anyway. "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." Acts 16:31.

— Austin L. Sorenson

Selected by Sister Delores Stuber

SUNDAY SICKNESS

BROTHER BOYD WYATT

There is a disease in the world of Christian people today that is causing many empty pews in the churches, and sad to say it is gaining ground in our own beloved church.

The only name I can give it is "Sunday Sickness." The medical profession hasn't any cure for it, and it is contagious to a certain degree. This disease is caused by a habit forming drug passed out

by the Devil himself, and if taken too often the disease is fatal.

The symptoms are usually noticed late Saturday night and by Sunday morning we just aren't able to get up to get to church on time, and too often not at all. Around noon time we get to feeling better and a ride to the lake or to the mountains really does wonders for us. By evening the old trouble comes on again and we just can't go to church and sit on those hard seats for an hour and listen to Bro. _____! He just can't preach as good as Bro. _____, anyway. We will sure be to both services next Sunday.

Early Monday morning we jump out of bed with a shout at our good companion to hurry that we can't be late for work. Is it possible that we love those thirty pieces of silver more than we love God?

It seems queer these symptoms do not show up if we are going some place else, or if there are to be visitors and dinner at the church. Jesus said neglect not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." I John 2:15.

It's true we must not let our family starve. We must make a living for them, but are we starving our families to a spiritual death? That is what we are doing when we keep them from church and Sunday school. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

I see many of our dear old Brothers and Sisters coming to church when many times they have to be helped up the steps and into their seats and are often in pain. Why do they come every time the opportunity affords? The reason is obvious. They love the Lord and want to be near their Saviour and to be with his followers.

It shames me when I think that I have been guilty at times not wanting to go to church. Instead many stay at home or go to some worldly entertainment when they are able to go to church. It is just another way of betraying our Lord. I believe we can betray our Lord today in our actions, just as much as Judas did when he betrayed his Saviour with a kiss for thirty pieces of silver. Judas hanged himself because of those thirty pieces of silver and went to an awful eternity, when he could have had a beautiful home in Heaven with his Master. I believe Judas prepared himself for that place and I also believe that we are preparing ourselves for either one place or the other. Which place will that be? It depends on us.

If we could just get ourselves to see that being at the house of the Lord on time is just as important and so much more so than getting to our work on time. It's very discouraging to go to church and find just a few there on time and the rest that do come, straggle in from then until preaching time and maybe later. I don't believe

it's pleasing to the Lord any more than it is to the Boss it we get to work late.

Jesus gave His life for each one of us that we might have eternal life. Are we giving our lives to Him in service? Do you think the world has it's eyes closed as to what the church is doing? I'm sure the old Devil is smiling when any one stays home or is late for church "if avoidable."

In these last days it is vital that we meet together as often as the Lord wills, to encourage each other and learn more of His precious word. We are not sure how long this opportunity will be ours. Lets each one take advantage of it while we can.

There is a sure treatment of this dreaded disease. It doesn't cost very much. Just two bended knees, a bowed head, and a humble heart. Talk to God and ask Him to heal you. Then start out with a determination to win out over Satan. It is impossible to fail if you try. "Ask and ye shall receive."

This article is not to ridicule any one, but the real purpose is to help us see where we are going. We won't find Jesus at the worldly halls and alleys, but we will find Him if we seek and follow in His footsteps. If Jesus were to come would we want to be at the bowling alley, theater, or some other worldly place where He would not go to find us? I'm sure we all want to be ready and waiting when Jesus comes again.

Let each one of us take this habit forming drug called "I love to go to church," which we can get from Jesus for the asking. The Lord needs each one of us to carry out his work and we certainly must have His loving care or we will surely die. May the Lord richly bless each member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, we love every one of you.

Selected from March 1, 1962 issue of
Bible Monitor by Sister E. M. Alltus

OBITUARY

ALMA MEADE

Sister Alma B. Meade was born February 2, 1895 in Reading, Pennsylvania and passed away February 2, 1978 at the age of 83 years.

She was a daughter of the late Elmer and Lizzie Wickel. She was a charter member of the Dunkard Brethren Church. Her husband, Thomas Meade, died in 1959.

Surviving are a daughter, Fern E., wife of George Longenecker, ten grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Frystown Dunkard Brethren Church by Elders David Ebling and James Kegerreis. Burial was in Sinking Spring Cemetery.

Her Bible was one of her constant companions having read it through twenty-five times and the New Testament seven hundred three times.

To those who loved her, the life that she lived and the deeds that she did, will just live on and on.

This is one of the poems she wrote:

THE BEST FRIEND OF ALL

I have a wonderful friend

He is so very dear

It is the Lord my Saviour

He is always near.

The very best friend

Stays close by my side

I've learned to trust and love Him

No matter what betide.

I can always tell Him my troubles

In prayer to Him I go

I know He will give me an answer

Because I love Him so.

He showers us with blessings

More than we can hold

And some day I hope to walk with Him

In Heaven on streets of gold.

The Family

NEWS ITEM

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Our Revival, with Bro. Virgil Leatherman, is over. But the influence of these sermons, like the melody of a lovely song, will linger on. The Spirit-filled messages were enjoyed by all.

We were happy that Sister Ethel Leatherman could be here, too.

Keith Brown, Terry and Thomas Walker accepted, the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and were baptized. Praise the Lord! I know the angels rejoiced.

We pray God's blessings on these converts and on Bro. Leatherman that he may continue to preach the Word, without fear or favor.

Sister Edyth Kline, Cor.

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PREPARED

They talk of preparedness
Of powder and guns;
Swift flying war planes
And tank that runs,
Machine guns and bullets,
High explosives and shells,
But all these inventions
Can't save man from hell.

The Lord He has said,
If we are faithful and true,
We'll always have peace
And daily bread too.
Do justly, love mercy,
Walk humbly with God;
Then prepare, oh America,
Prepare to meet God.

— Anonymous
Selected

ROOTED AND BUILT UP

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Col. 2:6-7.

As Spring has passed and Summer has come, it is a joy to look into the garden and the fields and to think of the coming harvest. When the seeds were planted there was only a hope of a coming harvest. Since the planting there have been dry spells and wet spells, hot spells and cold spells yet that hope remains.

Many times Jesus, the Apostles and other writers used parables or illustrations to teach the people. By using things we can understand our small minds can get a glimpse of great Spiritual teachings. The gardens and the fields teach us of a time of preparation, of planting, of growth and of harvest, not only in the fruits, vegetables and crops of this life, but Spiritually as well. There will be a time of ingathering and sorting at the end of our life here, so we must be careful about the seed we sow. "...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Paul's first illustration in this portion of his letter to the Colossians is that of walking. He compares the Christian life to a journey. A journey is made up of many steps between the start and the finish, yet each step is important in determining the success or failure of that journey. Some travelers, either through ignorance or willful disobedience, stray from the pathway and become lost. The pathway of the Christian is strait and narrow. Paul speaks of our walk as conforming to the way we received Christ. Although the

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plan of salvation demonstrates the widest and greatest love ever known or shown, it is a narrow way for it is only through Jesus Christ that anyone can come to the Father. "...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Paul further instructs us, through other illustrations, what is needed to have this kind of walk.

First he tells us to be rooted. In writing to the Ephesians he used the phrase, "rooted and grounded in love." We first must be rooted in the love of God, which drew the plan of salvation. We must accept what He has provided for it to benefit us. When we go to the grocery store to get an item, we must remove it from the shelf, carry it to the checkout and pay for it. Then it becomes ours to use. The salvation of our souls involves our free choice, our acceptance and our willingness to pay — to give up the world and its pleasures. This is being rooted in the firm ground of God's love. A seed must take root in order to bring forth its crop. Without roots it can not benefit from the moisture and minerals in the soil around it. A man without roots in the love of God can not produce anything worthwhile. His best is but as a filthy rag.

We would expect Paul to continue his thoughts of the plant, rooted and growing up, but in between words he begins a new, though appropriate, thought. He speaks of being built up. When a seed is planted it has no part in the process that causes it either to rot or to produce abundantly. But when a man is rooted in the love of God, he has choices to make during his Christian life. Something built has had labor bestowed upon it. A man who builds a house puts in many hours doing what is necessary to have a house that will be livable. He has a work to do and the Christian has a work to do to be built up. Being rooted in God's love is necessary, without that all labor would be in vain. To be built up in Christ, we must build upon the Word of God. To build our life upon any other foundation will bring the same consequences suffered by the foolish man.

The next thought given by Paul, "stablished in the faith," is a natural outcome of both being "rooted" and "built up." A plant growing up from a seed is very tender at first but as it survives the elements around it, it becomes stable. Then it can withstand much adversity. A man who builds a house will build it to withstand the storms that come upon it. A business often advertises the date of its establishment to increase the customer's confidence. As Christians we need to be established in the faith. We dare not be cast about by every wind of doctrine that is around us. Jude exhorts us to "... earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." This is not just to defend the faith but to actively promote it. Although New Testament doctrines are out of

favor in the world, even in the religious world, we must never be ashamed of the Biblical faith.

These illustrations are just a few among many found in God's Word. Might we receive their simple message so we can walk to please our God by being rooted, built up and stablished in His love, work and faith.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN FATHER

What a friend we have in Father,
Who is always near and dear;
We should never disobey him,
But love him with tender care.
Oh, he loves us just as Mother
We should always love him, too;
Some day he will leave forever,
Without him, what would we do?

When his hair has turned to silver,
Will you love him then as now?
Love him now while he is with you,
Death will someday cool his brow.
When he's old we should respect him,
He deserves the very best;
Soon will come the day of judgment,
He'll be numbered with the best.

When his eyes have closed for ever,
And you can not view his face;
Mother, too, will then be older,
There's no one can take his place.
You will miss him at the table,
There will be a vacant chair;
If you love him, plainly show it,
For his days are numbered here.

— R. E. Winsett

Selected by Sister Sylvia Parker

A PECULIAR TREASURE

We are inclined to become interested in an old treasure, such as an old chest of coins of great value. In Genesis 11 and 12 we have a clue to a great treasure. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, (the first born of Terah), Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew

thee; And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great..." Genesis 12:1-2.

God remembered His covenant when He spoke to Moses. "Now if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people..." Exodus 19:5. God used Moses to lead His people in the way of holiness and separation from other tribes. "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth." Deut. 14:2. God provided leaders to guide His people. Joshua, Elijah, David and Esther were used in a marvelous way to preserve His people from destruction.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal. 4:4-5. "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; even in him." Eph. 1:10. "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ." Eph. 1:12. "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one; for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." Heb. 2:11. It is plain that we are a Family with Christ, our high priest. "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." Heb. 7:12. "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh to God." Heb. 7:19. God hath preserved a people, called out to serve Him in love and obedience. "The Lord did not set his love upon you... because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were fewest of all people." They have a Spirit the world cannot know. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Cor. 2:14.

God's people were first called Christians at Antioch because they were followers of Christ. They accept the Word of the New Testament as a message from Heaven, Heb. 1:1-2, and teach it in full, II Tim. 4:1-2. They baptize by trine immersion, Matt. 28:19. They follow the command and example of washing one another's feet, John 13:4-17. They take the Lord's Supper at night, John 13:30, at one and the same time, tarrying one for another, I Cor. 11:33-34. They take the Communion at night after the Supper, as did the Lord, Luke 22:19-20. They greet one another with an holy kiss, Acts 20:37, Rom. 16:16, I Pet. 5:14. They anoint and lay hands on the sick, James 5:14, Mark 6:13. They teach the doctrines of

Christ: Peace, Heb. 12:14; Love, I Cor. 13; Unity, Eph. 4; and both faith and works, James 2:17-20. Sisters cover and Brethren uncover their heads in worship, I Cor. 11:3-14. They labor for non-conformity to the world in its vain and wicked customs, Rom. 12:1-2, I Tim. 2:9-10, I Pet. 3:3-5. They refrain from going to law, I Cor. 6:1-8. Musical instruments are not used in worship, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16, Amos 6:5. Divorce is permitted for one cause only, Matt. 19:9. They advocate non-swearing, Matt. 5:34-37; Anti-secretism, II Cor. 6:14-17, Matt. 24:26; Opposition to war, John 18:36; and doing good to all men, Matt. 5:44-46.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14. Yes, the Dunkard Brethren are a peculiar people.

Brother L. A. Shumake
R. 5, Box 223, Louisa, Virginia

JUST LOVE 'EM, DON'T LEAVE 'EM

PART 1

"If thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us." Mark 9:22b. A heart-broken father made this plea to Jesus. His son was possessed with an evil spirit; he had sought help from the disciples but their efforts failed. Jesus could do something, He did have compassion and He helped; He cast out the evil spirit. Jesus has always had compassion on people. He is touched by our suffering, our loneliness, our hopelessness — touched deeply enough to reach out to us in love. We, too, need to have compassion. We need to care about the needs of others, as He has cared for us.

"Compassion" means a suffering with another, pity, kindness, tenderness, mercy. Jesus often was "moved with compassion" or "had compassion" toward someone. He felt what they felt and responded to them in love. He was kind to those who really wanted Him. He saved His sharpness for the religious hypocrites of the day, the scribes and Pharisees. He knew they didn't want Him. Unkindness, sharp words and so forth build up a barrier of resentment and anger which pushes people away from us and, worst of all, away from God. Compassion and love draws them to us and to God.

People need you to care, to show them Jesus by the life that you live and the love that you give. Many see Christ revealed in someone's life before they ever read the Bible and learn what Jesus can do for them. When you really start caring for people, you will find that there is no end to the hungry hearts. Jesus was moved with

compassion on the multitudes, "... because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." Matt. 9:36b. There are multitudes now just as confused as these were, and they need someone to care, someone to share in their suffering. Will you love'em or leave'em?

The more sinful someone's life was, the more love and compassion Jesus showed to him or her. A woman, known as a sinner, found Jesus and anointed his feet. Her sins, which were many, were forgiven by Jesus and He sent her away in peace. (See Luke 7:36-50). No matter how awful someone's life is, just love, pray and care for him or her as Jesus would. You can't do it alone, but the Lord will help you to do so. He knows what's best. With His guidance, you can help instead of adding to one's sorrow by saying or doing the wrong thing. He can fill your heart with compassion, even for people whom you think you can't care about. You won't always know what to do, but you can love them.

"And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean." Mark 1:41. This man, a leper, was not to be touched, for he was unclean, but Jesus touched him anyhow. He got close enough to help the one who needed Him so much. He saw a widow whose only son had died, and He had compassion on her. Jesus saw her heartache and loneliness and He cared. He encouraged her first with "Weep not," as if to say "things will get better." Then He raised her son back to life. We can't heal and we can't raise the dead, but we can be close by to help people when we are needed.

You may know people who seem to want to serve the Lord, yet end up doing everything wrong. Those people need your love and compassion, your kindness. You can't make their decisions for them, but you can love them. You can pray and assure them that you are concerned. If they don't know what God's Word says, kindly and gently show them, then let go. You can sow the seed but the harvest is in God's hands. The Holy Spirit will bring conviction while God's love draws. High pressure tactics and fear of punishment may scare a person into making a decision, but it won't last unless the primary motive is to please Christ.

Job's grief was so great that his friends just came and sat with him for seven days; no one said a word. Sometimes there is nothing we can say, but love stays with a person until the battle is over. Love doesn't leave someone to be overwhelmed by their sorrow and heartache. That may mean you must spend alot of time just being there, just hurting because someone you love is hurting. You may feel like what you do is of little value, but often just being there, loving and caring is enough. You may cry much because of

another's heartache, especially when it looks like a hopeless mess, but with God all things are possible. He who sows in tears shall reap in joy, so look forward to the joy which will follow the tears.

When Job's friends began talking to him, they thought they were saying all the right things. They began condemning him and telling him what all they thought he had done to deserve all his misery. This only added to his grief. It never helps to tell someone "you know you deserve this," even though they are reaping what they have sown. Most people know what they've done wrong and punish themselves enough without you adding to it. At times it is best to keep still, even if you are sure you have all the answers. When one of God's own goes through a valley of despair, God gives them a blessing on the other side. Rather than trying to figure out the reason for the valley, encourage them and assure them of His blessing to come. Draw them closer to Jesus by your love; then you'll both be blessed.

To be continued
Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

HE LOVES US

Christ's love is so great it is expressed in four dimensions: breadth, length, depth, and height. (Eph. 3:18-19). We may not grasp completely what Paul was relating to us, but we have some distinct impressions. Looking at Christ's love is like looking at the endless universe. It is endless as we look at the horizons in any direction. Limitless love! As we think of the cross as the symbol of this kind of love, we remember the post points upward and downward, and the ends of the crosspiece point to the widest horizons.

In the BREADTH of Christ's love, Jews and Gentiles are made one, both being reconciled to God, both having access to the Father. The breadth reaches to the extremities of humanity. Its LENGTH is as long as eternity in the future. His love began before we were born. He loved us from the foundation of the world. Its DEPTH is so deep it reaches down into the pit of sin and spiritual death and pulls us out of it. All men are at the bottom of this pit until Jesus rescues them in His love. Its HEIGHT is exemplified in the believer being raised to sit with Jesus in heaven. He has been lifted from that pit and exalted to a position in glory.

Can a Christian really understand the dimensions of Christ's love? We can if we are obedient to His will and if we let that love from Him that is in us radiate from our life.

This whole concept obviously staggers the mind. How could God take a worthless human being, a rebel against His love, and

give him His fulness, His total love? Yet, it is true.

If the world is to understand this incomparable love of God, it must be radiated from Christians. If people are to recognize that God is wise, they must see God's wisdom in believers. We are responsible to communicate who God is not just by words, but by deeds.

If the world fails to recognize Christians, it's because the Christians lack love for each other. Before a Christian can love people fervently, he must be established in love. Before he can be established in love, he has to have a pure heart. The only way to comprehend the love of Christ is to be rooted and grounded in it. There is one thing that understands love — love!

Let's not cheat ourselves out of Christ's love because we are not rooted and grounded in the faith. Let's keep our lives and our hearts pure that we might know the fulness of it.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Quinter, Kansas

THE BIBLE

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24. Many of the children have known this Holy Book from their youth. It is the inspired Word of God. I believe it is the most popular ever published. It still is the best seller of all books.

Often it is misused. It seems there are so many who don't understand it. I wonder if it isn't because they don't want to follow its teachings.

This book contains lots of Spiritual food which gives us strength and nourishes us for the work that lies ahead for us to do. It contains the birth, the life and the cruel death on the cross of Jesus. It shows His wonderful love for you and me. He so freely gave His life that we could be God's dear children. It is not only human but divine. Some call it the Book of Life.

All the writers of the Bible were men of God and were inspired to write. Let us be careful how we read this book. We are to study to show ourselves approved unto God. In Romans we read, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek." This surely is a blessing to all who are faithful.

We also read, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Let us sow good seed so the fruits of our labour will be accepted by the Lord. Let us study the Good Book and be ready to answer the call when it comes to one and all.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

HIDING IN THE STUFF

I Samuel 10:14-27

Samuel anointed Saul to be king over Israel but no one knew about it. Saul didn't even tell his own family. We have to wonder what Saul thought about being a king. Saul was just an ordinary young man. To be chosen a king was something he had never considered.

Samuel called the people of Israel together in a place called "Mispeh." He told them how they had rejected God when they asked to have a king like other nations. God was displeased with them but He told Samuel, "Give them a king."

Samuel said to the children of Israel, "Present yourselves together before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands." All the people of Israel were numbered by their tribes and by their families. What a sight it was to see so many people in one place. When Samuel had the tribe of Benjamin come before him, the family of Kish, Saul's father was taken, but Saul wasn't there. Where could he be?

No one knew where Saul was. They searched for him but Saul couldn't be found. Samuel must have wondered about a man who wouldn't come before the people to be recognized as their king. Finally they asked the Lord where Saul was because God knows everything. Nobody but nobody can hide from God. And the Lord answered, "Behold he hath hidden himself among the stuff."

The people had come from far and near, bringing their food, bedding, tents and whatever they needed till they returned home. All this stuff must have been piled together and it made a good hiding place for Saul. After God revealed where Saul hid himself, they ran and fetched him and brought him to Samuel.

When Saul stood among the people he was head and shoulders higher than anyone. Samuel said to all the people, "See whom the Lord has chosen. There is none like him among all the people." And the people shouted and said, "God save the king!"

When God gives us a work to do we should not hide ourselves by being interested in the "stuff" that's around us. God's work should come first. God wants first place in your hearts. Are YOU willing to do what God wants YOU to do?

Brother Rudy Cover

BELOVED OF GOD, CALLED TO BE SAINTS

"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 1:7. The Church at Rome in Paul's day was evidently composed of Jews and Gentiles. It is not clear when this Church started or how it operated. In Acts 23:11 the Lord told Paul that he was to also "bear witness" at Rome.

The Roman letter evidently preceded his visit there. Later he finally arrived at Rome as a Roman prisoner, manacled with chains. Undaunted he preached and taught all who came to him in "his own hired house" for two years. His "all confidence" in the Lord, and his own part of Christ's Great Commission to preach the Gospel to all nations, was carefully recorded. Acts 21:31.

Paul is thought to have written his Roman letter from Corinth about 56 A.D. His heart was filled with great love and strong desire to minister to them what God had revealed to him. He comes to them in letter as a "servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle separated unto the gospel of God." A deep note is struck in verse 6, "Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ." Their call from God brought them to Jesus. It was a call of God's great love. All barriers had been removed. Jew and Gentile were made one in Christ. Together they rejoiced in God's great grace and His bestowed peace in their hearts.

Weddings are always joyous occasions because of a declared love of a man for his bride, and the bride's answering love for her groom. Paul, as the Groom's attendant is bearing a love message to the future Bride of Christ: "God loves you."

In the light of Christ, creation's true story is one of God's great love lavished upon the man and woman, He had created in His own likeness. All natural blessings and mercies are true tokens of His great love. The wonders of our own body and soul ever speak of God's creative love and infinite power and skill. Above our heads, beneath our feet, and all around on every side, we are completely enveloped and are a part of the great love thought and power of God.

Adam's children, we are sinners by nature and often by choice. Sin ever mocks the love of God and challenges His rights as the creator and sustainer of man. But in Christ's death for man's sin, and in His glorious resurrection, a far greater love of God is shone. It is the love of redemption. Saints are called to share and have a part in God's redemptive love through His Son.

Believing Jews and Gentiles at Rome had responded to God's great love in Christ. Many good things could be said of them. they

had become a part of the Christian news of the day. Wonderously created, gloriously redeemed, and brought into God's favor by accepting God's greatest love gift to man, their answering love to Him was being shown by faithful, active service for Him. (verse 8).

Romans 16 warms the heart, as it shows this being "Beloved of God" is both group-wise and personal. Each believing heart should thrill, "Jesus loves even me."

What does "Beloved of God, called to be saints" mean to you, dear young Christian, or to you dear aged Christian, whose grey hairs speak of many years of faithful service to Christ?

The language calls for a faith that reaches far beyond my knowledge and understanding. Ps. 139:6, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it." Paul, after his great expoundings in this letter confesses his own limited understanding in Rom. 11:33-36. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom, and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out..."

The future bride has the great joy of being loved by the one, the only one, who has won her heart's great love. There is a gleam in her eye and a spring in her step. All plans and actions are already controlled by a great love. It is the joy of a loving, faithful service already begun.

"I am His," is a thrilling thought. He loved me enough to die to atone for my sins. For me He arose from the tomb, He sent His Holy Spirit to instruct and to guide me into all truth. He is now in Heaven, an ascended Lord, a faithful mediator before the Father. I can bring all my joys and sorrows to Him.

Let us follow Paul's thinking to verse 15, "So, as much as in me is, I AM READY to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." God had given Paul natural and spiritual endowments to use in Christ's service. He used his craft, as a tentmaker, at Corinth to forward the Gospel. He wasted no time cataloging and explaining his gifts. "So as much as in me is, I am ready" becomes a special plea in Rom. 12:1. Here, he beseeches them, by the mercies of God to do as he had done years before. All we have and are is to be presented to Him as a living sacrifice in holy living and a reasonable service. This does not mean for us to be guided by our reason: but rather that our reasoning conforms to the will and Word of God.

Not until we have presented this sacrifice to God are we ready to serve Him. We learn to serve through obedience to Him. Jesus saw man's need and gave all He had for man's need. He was ready when the time came. Paul saw the need of an apostle at Rome and was ready to meet the need. If indeed "called to be saints," we will

be shown the needs of our fellowman. Jesus spoke of someone's need of a cup of water, and of those hungry for food, sick, distressed, suffering in prisons and so forth. He also spoke of the Good Samaritan who went to the need of the robbed and beaten traveler by the roadside. His directive here is "Go thou and do likewise."

But man's ever greatest need is for Salvation. We who have been so loved and called of God are commissioned to carry His Gospel to all the world. I must be able to say with Paul, "As much as in me is, I am ready."

Your Brother in Christ,
James D. Cover

HARMONY

"Hail, sweetest, dearest tie that binds
Our glowing hearts in one;
Hail, sacred hope that tunes our minds
To harmony divine."

Brethren Hymnal #593

Harmony divine! A blessed attribute that is needed in our Churches today. For whilst we disagree over the puniest of issues, souls are falling into eternal hell and damnation. As Ephesians 4:4 stipulates "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." One body! Yet many small, dogmatic groups gather together, spurning all others! One Spirit! Yet many, who love the Lord are accused of being of the devil! Many times we read in the early chapters of the Book of Acts how those Christians were "in one accord." Love smoothed over the "opinions," the "doctrines of man" and the carnality. Love brought an imperfect people together and made them perfect through the righteousness of God. Love, the greatest of the fruits of the Spirit, brought sinners into the Church to be saved and added unto it. Harmony divine! The sinner sees it and knows "that we are of Christ, because we love the brethren."

Only God can gird us about with this blessed fruit. Let us beg Him today to help us remove everything that would get in the way of our love, one for another, that these poor souls in danger of hell-fire might have a chance to enter into Eternity with Christ.

Brother Lynn Miller
R. 2, Newmanstown, Pa. 17073



Fear is the tax that conscience pays to guilt. — Sewell.

GREAT WORDS

The greatest word is God.
The deepest word is Soul.
The longest word is Eternity.
The swiftest word is Time.
The nearest word is Now.
The darkest word is Sin.
The meanest word is Hypocrisy.
The broadest word is Truth.
The strongest word is Right.
The tenderest word is Love.
The sweetest word is Home.
The dearest word is Mother.

— Selected

NEWS ITEMS

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

We plan, the Lord willing, to have a week of revival meetings, July 9 through 16. Bro. Eugene Kauffman of Harrisonburg, Virginia will be with us at that time to bring the message each evening. A Lovefeast is expected to be held the evening of July 15. Come and worship with us.

Sister Irene Harris, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Englewood Congregation will hold a revival meeting July 16 through July 30.

Brother David Kegerreis of Bethel, Pennsylvania will be the speaker. Meetings will open at 7:45 each evening through the week and at 7:30 on Sunday evenings.

Pray for our Brother as he comes into our midst. May he have strength both physically and spiritually to bring messages from God's Word. We pray the Church will be strengthened and souls gathered into the fold.

Come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Della Klepinger, Cor.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers offered on my behalf during my five weeks in the hospital, also for the many cards and gifts I received. I am sure God will bless you richly for your thoughtfulness.

We thank God for His complete healing power!

Brother Scott Pepper and family

BACK ISSUES

The Editor has back issues of the Bible Monitor. Most dates back to January, 1975 are available. Extra copies are not available for a few dates. If you have any use for these unused copies let the Editor know and they will be supplied as long as the supply lasts.

The Editor also has a large number of General Conference Minutes on hand. Not all years are available but many are. If you desire any of these booklets please inform the Editor. First come, first served.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY

July 2 — "I was Blind, Now I See." John 9:1-41.

July 9 — "I Am the Door; I Am the Good Shepherd." John 10:1-18.

July 16 — Dedication to Christ. John 10:19-42.

July 23 — Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life. John 11:1-46.

July 30 — "That One Should Die." John 11:47-57.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) Why were the leaders of the Jews so determined to not believe that Jesus was the Christ?
- (2) Did the man that was born blind receive anything more from Christ than his eyesight? John 9:37-38.
- (3) Who is the Door to the sheepfold? John 10:7. What is the sheepfold? John 10:16. Who are the sheep? John 10:27-28.
- (4) How did Jesus prove He was dedicated to His Father? John 10:25.
- (5) Can we have eternal life now? John 11:26.
- (6) What reason did the Jews give for Jesus to be sentenced to death? John 11:48-51.



Cowardly, wayward, and weak
I change with the changing sky,
Today so eager and strong,
Tomorrow not caring to try.
But He never gives in
And we two shall win,
Jesus and I.

— Author unknown

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JULY, 1978

COUNSEL AND COURAGE

Memory Verse: Acts 20:27

For I have not Shunned to declare
unto you all the counsel of God.

Sat. 1-Acts 5:17-42

Memory Verse: I Cor. 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before
the time, until the Lord come, who
both will bring to light the hidden
things of darkness, and will make
manifest the counsels of the
hearts: and then shall every man
have praise of God.

Sun. 2-Acts 9:1-31

Mon. 3-Acts 20:17-38

Tues. 4-Acts 27:21-44

Wed. 5-Rom. 11:13-36

Thur. 6-I Cor. 4:1-21

Fri. 7-Eph. 1:1-23

Sat. 8-Heb. 6:1-20

Memory Verse: Rev. 3:18

I counsel thee to buy of me gold
tried in the fire, that thou mayest
be rich; and white raiment, that
thou mayest be clothed, and that
the shame of thy nakedness do
not appear: and anoint thine eyes
with eyesalve, that thou mayest
see.

Sun. 9-Rev. 3:1-22

Mon. 10-Num. 13:17-33

Tues. 11-Deut. 31:1-15

Wed. 12-Deut. 31:16-30

Thur. 13-Jos. 1:1-18

Fri. 14-Jos. 2:1-24

Sat. 15-Jos. 10:1-27

Memory Verse: Jos. 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be
strong and of a good courage; be
not afraid, neither be thou dis-
mayed: for the Lord they God is

with thee whithersoever thou
goest.

Sun. 16-Jos. 23:1-16

Mon. 17-2 Sam. 10:1-19

Tues. 18-I Chron. 19:1-19

Wed. 19-I Chron. 22:1-19

Thur. 20-I Chron. 28:1-21

Fri. 21-II Chron. 15:1-19

Sat. 22-II Chron. 19:1-11

Memory Verse: I Chron. 28:20

And David said to Solomon his
son, Be strong and of good
courage, and do it: fear not, nor
be dismayed: for the Lord God,
even my God, will be with thee; he
will not fail thee, nor forsake thee,
until thou hast finished all the
word for the service of the house
of the Lord.

Sun. 23-II Chron. 32:1-22

Mon. 24-II Chron. 32:23-33

Tues. 25-Ezra 10:1-17

Wed. 26-Psa. 27:1-14

Thur. 27-Psa. 31:1-24

Fri. 28-Isa. 41:1-14

Sat. 29-Isa. 41:15-29

Memory Verse: II Chron. 32:7

Be strong and courageous, be not
afraid nor dismayed for the king
of Assyria, nor for all the multi-
tude that is with him: for there be
more with us than with him:

Sun. 30-Acts 28:1-16

Mon. 31-Acts 28:17-31

Memory Verse: Psa. 27:14

Wait on the Lord: be of good
courage, and he shall strengthen
thine heart: wait, I say, on the
Lord.

Psa. 31:24

Be of good courage, and he shall
strengthen your heart, all ye that
hope in the Lord.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

JULY 1, 1978

No. 13

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

CHURCH CLEANING

We cleaned our little church today - -
Wiped all the dust and dirt away.
We straightened papers, washed the floors,
Wiped off the lights and painted doors.

We brushed the dirt stains from the books
And whisked the cobwebs from the nooks.
We polished windows so we'd see
The newly greening shrub and tree.

We said, "How wonderful 'twould be
If we cleaned out what we can't see - -
Such things as grudges, hates, and lies,
And musty thoughts much worse than flies.

If all would let God's Spirit in
To cleanse each heart from soiling sin;
Ah, then, our church would really shine,
Our fellowship would be divine!"

— Author Unknown
Selected by Sister Delores Stuber

GREATER

Many men have been spoken of as being great men. They have their names, deeds and offices recorded in history. Thomas Carlyle, the English historian, contended that the history of the world could best be written through the biographies of the world's great men.

The pages of the Bible tell of many men who have performed many illustrious deeds and rendered noble service to God. They are truly great men for they have chosen the eternal things rather than the fleeting, fleshly, ungodly things that attract the service of the masses. In Hebrews 11 are listed many of the heroes of the faith. They were great men because God energized their service.

But there remains One who is greater than the great men mentioned in the history of this world or even those mentioned in the Bible. There are many passages in the New Testament that speak of the superiority of Jesus Christ. Jesus, Himself, spoke of this in Luke 11:29-32, where He is shown to be greater than Solomon and Jonah.

Solomon was famous for the wisdom he had chosen over wealth, revenge or long life, to receive from God. Even the Queen of Sheba marveled at his wealth and wisdom which was greater even than the reports she had heard. There is a wisdom that men pursue in this world in their schools and laboratories but Jesus is greater than man's wisdom. Even the foolishness of God is greater than man's best.

Jonah, after grave misgivings and an unsuccessful attempt at flight, went to Ninevah with a message of warning. That message caused a great and sincere repentance from the king down to the lowest. Disaster was averted by this change of heart. As necessary

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as repentance is, Jesus is greater. His Plan of Salvation goes beyond repentance to the actual remittance of sin. Faith, repentance and baptism all have their part in His plan for rescuing fallen man. John the Baptist preached a message of repentance but when Jesus began His ministry, John decreased, just as he had said he would.

When Moses and Elijah appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration, (Luke 9:28-36) impetuous Peter was ready to build three tabernacles for these two and Jesus. He made this offer not fully realizing that he was bringing Jesus down to a lower plane than He deserved, by making Him equal with Moses and Elijah.

Moses had delivered the Law which he had received from God to the children of Israel. He was highly honored by the leaders of Israel for his service, but One was greater. Moses was a servant of God, but Jesus was greater. He was the Son. (Heb. 3:3-6). Being greater than Moses and the Old Law, Jesus was naturally greater than the priesthood established by that Law. These priests held their offices only during their lifetimes but His is an eternal, Heavenly priesthood. These priests, because of their shared sinfulness with the people, had to offer a sacrifice for themselves before they could sacrifice for the people. Jesus was perfect (Heb. 7:23-27).

Elijah was one of the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. The prophets spoke of many coming events. Some of their prophecies were so deep that even they could not understand all they had spoken. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies perfectly. Because Jesus fulfilled the Law and the prophets, we need neither the darkness of the prophecies nor the ceremonialism of the Law; Jesus is superior to both.

The angels of God are Heavenly beings sent to help and protect us. We would expect these messengers of God to be the highest favored of all, but Jesus is superior to the angels. Jesus was openly acknowledged as His Son by God at His baptism and at His transfiguration. Never have any of the angels been promoted to the place of Sonship. (Heb. 1:4-5). Jesus is greater than even the angels.

The opposition marshalled against the believer by Satan seems at times to be all powerful. It is essential for the Christian to know that there is one greater and stronger than Satan. From Genesis 3:14-15, we learn that though Satan may bruise the heel of Christ, as he did on the cross, he must look forward to the greater wound of having his head bruised. The Resurrection of Jesus destroyed the greatest weapon in Satan's arsenal, death. Those who follow Jesus can also overcome him, for they have the Spirit of God within. John encourages us by telling us, "Ye are of God, little children,

and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I Jn. 4:4.

Jesus thought it not robbery to be equal with God (Phil. 2:5-8), yet He displayed the greatest humility ever shown. He laid aside His Heavenly Glory and took upon Himself the lowly form of man and even suffered death on a cruel cross. He was despised and rejected of men. His body was beaten more than any other. He suffered all of this - not because He deserved it - but for you and I.

He is greater than the men of history, the men of the Bible, the angels and even greater than Satan. If you want to be an overcomer, if you want to have a part with the Greatest, accept Him and follow Him. You'll be glad you did.

JUST LOVE 'EM, DON'T LEAVE 'EM

Part 2

"Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on Thee?" Matt. 18:33. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" I John 3:17. The responsibility to help others is a very personal one. You should have pity on others as God has had pity on you. If you have God's love, you will have compassion. If you can ignore someone's need when you should get involved, you don't have either one. When you have God's love in your heart, you will care for others.

"Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt." Matt. 18:27. When people accept Christ, have compassion on them and let them forget the past. Don't keep reminding them of it. So often, people punish themselves too much and if you add to it, it becomes an overwhelming burden. Whatever Jesus forgave is to stay that way - forgiven. It is cruel and unkind to continue dragging up their mistakes; it is also very un-Christlike.

The prodigal son is famous because of the mistake he made. He decided to leave home; it was not a wise choice and he no doubt left a very upset family behind. He soon wasted everything he had and ended up in a hogpen - for a Jew, the worst possible state of existence. Home began to look better all the time and he decided he would be better off as just one of his father's servants than to stay in the mess he was in. He wasn't going to ask to be reinstated in his family, but he was hungry both in body and soul and he wanted to go home. He had no way of knowing how he would be received - he just hoped.

"But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." Luke 15:20b. This father was watching for his son or he would not have seen him until he was at the door. Why did he run to meet him? Why didn't he wait where he was? He knew it was difficult for his son to face the shame and he wanted to make it as easy for him as he could. Besides, he was glad his son had returned. This is love and compassion in action. When someone returns to the Lord, make it as easy for them as you can. Be glad and rejoice with them. After all, Heaven rejoiced when you repented.

All was not well in that household yet. The older brother was angry about the whole thing and refused to participate in the welcome celebration. He evidently wanted his brother to come crawling; he wanted him to bear the fullest measure of reproach for his foolishness. How many times have you made someone come crawling to you? How many times have you stubbornly stood your ground and refused to forgive, when you should have had compassion and run to meet the "prodigal?"

How many times have you literally left someone who needs you, when you should have stayed with them and loved them? If the situation were reversed, how would you like to be made to crawl, to suffer reproach above measure and then not be sure if you were forgiven? This is not God's way; you can be sure of compassion and forgiveness with Him. We ought also to forgive. "So that contrariwise ye ought rather to FORGIVE him, and COMFORT him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow." II Cor. 2:7.

It is so easy to condemn others for the choices they are making. You may think people have taken their eyes off Jesus and that's why they are suffering. This is what Job's friends thought about him, that he had taken his eyes off the Lord. Did you ever stop to think that maybe these people do have their eyes on Jesus, they do care about His will for their lives and that's why they are suffering? If they didn't care about God's will for their lives, they wouldn't "hang-in-there" as long as they have. Satan wouldn't bother them either. What are you doing to encourage and support someone who can't hang on any longer?

"Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." Mark 5:19b. Has the Lord had compassion on you? Then tell somebody! Help somebody! You may get criticized for trying to help someone, but often that's just the Devil's tactics to discourage you. Criticism levelled at you when you are trying to be kind and compassionate is usually only an indication that you are doing what Jesus wants you

to do for them. When He sees someone seeking help, He protects that troubled heart and sends that one to whoever will have compassion. God won't send anyone to you if you won't love them, but if you will love them, you help draw them to Christ. Then He can help them.

Someone remarked about being afraid to pray for more compassion, being hard-pressed at that point to keep up with all the pleas for help. This reply came back, "Just ask for more grace to take care of everyone who comes." Sometimes you give and give and give of yourself to those who need you until you think you can't give anymore. It is then you should ask the Lord to increase your supply of love and strength. God wants you to have love and compassion for all and He will give more grace as you need it.

"If you quit loving the moment it becomes difficult, you never discover compassion." - David Augsburg. Don't leave someone the moment he or she gets into trouble and makes a wrong decision. Take time out to care; discover compassion as the Samaritan did. "Hang-in-there" with them, help bear their load in love and see them through to victory in Jesus. When someone says, "If you can do anything, please help me," do what you can. It may take prayer and fasting - a supreme effort and complete giving of yourself - or it may take something less. But whatever you give, give your best. God gave us His best - His Son, Jesus. Jesus had every reason to leave us stranded in our misery but He didn't. He loved us, He gave all He had to help us. Do as Jesus did for those who need you - just love'em, don't leave'em.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

KING SAUL TO THE RESCUE!

I Samuel 11:1-15

Israel had displeased God when they asked for a king to reign over them. Even though Saul had been anointed, they hadn't fully accepted him as king. It was a time when Israel didn't seem to know what they did want. The nations around them were taking advantage of them but Israel didn't have the strength to fight and overcome them. They were disorganized and afraid.

The Ammonites were a nation that brought their army to a place in Israel called Jabesh-gilead. The Israelites at Jabesh were so helpless that they said to Nahash, the leader of the Ammonites,

"Make a covenant with us and we will serve you." In other words, "Tell us what to do and we will be your servants." This shows just how weak and disorganized the nation of Israel had become. They should have trusted God to help them, then they could have overcome their enemies.

Nahash was a cruel man. He said, "Only on one condition will I make a covenant with you and that is that I will thrust out all your right eyes and lay it for a reproach in Israel." This was a terrible thing to ask of anyone, especially a nation that was supposed to be the people of God. Not only did he want to blind their right eyes but he wanted others to know what a miserable and despised people they were. Even though Israel had sinned against God, God could not tolerate such a thing to be done to his people. Let us see what God did about it.

The elders of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Give us seven days to think this over and if there is no man to save us, we will come out to you." Then they sent messengers to tell Saul what Nahash demanded. When the people heard this they cried and wept. The Spirit of God came upon Saul and he became very angry. He took a yoke of oxen, cut them in pieces and sent them to all the parts of Israel by messengers with the message that whoever would not come and help, would be cut up like the oxen. That did it. Three hundred and thirty thousand men promised to help the very next day.

Jabesh told Nahash that tomorrow they would come out and he could do what seemed good to him. They acted like they were helpless when they knew that help was on the way. The time arrived for a showdown and Saul put the men of Israel and Judah into three companies. They came at the Ammonites from three directions, slew the Ammonites and scattered them until there were not two left together. Before the day was over Israel had won the battle.

Samuel told the people to go to the city of Gilgal and renew the kingdom there. The people went to Gilgal and there they made Saul king before the Lord. They sacrificed peace offerings to God and rejoiced greatly.

How easy it was for Israel to overcome their enemies when led by God's Spirit. We need God's Holy Spirit to lead us too. Jesus said, "When He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth."

Brother Rudy Cover



We can do more good by being good, than in any other way. — Hill

NOBODY EVER ASKED JOHN TO COME

He was a blacksmith and a most wretchedly wicked man. He knew everything that is blatant and blasphemous in infidelity. He hated everything that is good, and loved everything that is bad. He studied to make himself an irritation to all who believed God, not even sparing his wife, who did the best she could in the patience and kingdom of Jesus. This man was given up as altogether beyond moral recovery, and so indeed he seemed. Prayer was made as though he had no existence; churches were opened and shut, but never with reference to him; the gospel was preached and mercy offered, but no one connected him with God's message to the world.

A few miles back in the country from the blacksmith's town there lived an old couple. Father and Mother Brown. They were close to ninety years of age. Theirs had been lives of conscious acceptance with God and of patient unremitting devotedness to Him; and they were waiting without sorrow and without fear for the promised homecoming.

Very early one morning the old man awoke, terribly agitated, and began to call his wife: "Get up, wife! Get up!"

"Why, old man," she said, "What is the matter?"

He answered: "I can't tell you now what's the matter; for I must start a fire in the kitchen. I want you to get breakfast ready as soon as you can; for I've got to go to town this morning."

"You go to town this morning!" she exclaimed. "Why, you are out of your head. You can't go to town. You haven't any way of going, and I know you can't walk."

"Don't tell me what I can't do," the old man persisted. "I tell you, I've got to go to town. I had a dream last night, and well, I'll go and make the fire then tell you about it."

His wife followed him, the breakfast was prepared and when the meal was over the old man started for town. It was a long and weary way for an old man to walk, but some strange strength was supplied him and without stopping to rest he kept on. The village was reached. Through the main street he trudged, then into the narrow cross street and made to the shop of "Devil John," the blacksmith.

"Father Brown!" he exclaimed in great amazement, "What are you doing here, and so early in the morning?"

The old man answered: "That's just what I've come to tell you. Let's go inside, where I can sit down; for I am tired."

Together they went into the shop, and when seated the old man

said: "John, I had a dream last night, and I've come to tell you about it. I dreamed that the hour I have thought about so much and tried to keep ready for so long was come. It was my time to die. And it was just like I thought it was going to be; for it was just as the Lord promised it should be. I wasn't the least bit afraid. How could I be? My room was full of angels, and they all spoke to me, and I loved them, and know they loved me. Then some of them stooped and slipped their arms under me and away we went. Beyond the hills and beyond the clouds we mounted through the starry skies. Oh, how they sang! I never heard anything like it in my life. On we swept, and on, till one of them said: "Look yonder, now; there's heaven!"

"Oh, John, I can't tell you how I felt when I was in sight of heaven; nor can I tell you what I saw when I looked. I don't believe any one could tell it. It was so peaceful, so beautiful, so pure, and so glorious! As we drew nearer, I saw the gates swinging open, and with even faster wings than we had come we swept through them into the city. Such a welcome! Welcome from everybody; all so glad; every hill seemed robed in gladness; it was in the fragrance of the flowers, in the music of every harp, in the song of every tongue, in the grasp of every hand; gladness everywhere, because I had come. Why, they made over me like I was somebody, when I was only a poor sinner saved by Jesus' blood. I found all my children there — not one of them lost — my boy that you used to be with and play with so much when you went to school together, was there, and your old mother, who was in my classes when I went to school. And after a time — I don't know how long it was — I saw the same angels who brought me, bring another; and it was my dear, sweet wife. I loved her more than ever when they brought her to me there. She was fairer than the day we married. We sat under the trees of life together, and walked by the river that flows from the throne of God. So happy! And I saw angels bringing in others — others that I love and you love. And so the years of eternity rolled.

"Then, John all at once it came to me that I hadn't seen you anywhere. I set out to look for you. I went into every street, asked everybody, but could get no trace of you. I was distressed more than you can know; and I went to the Lord, my precious Saviour, and asked Him where you were. And, O John, that you could have seen how sorry He was when He told me that you hadn't come. 'Not come!' I said 'Why didn't John come?' And He wept, as I suppose He often did when I was down here, and told me, 'Nobody ever asked John to come.' Oh, I fell at His feet. I bathed them with my tears. I laid my cheeks upon them and cried: "Blessed Lord! Just let me out of here half an hour, and I'll go and ask him to

come. I'll give him an invitation. And right then and there I woke up. It was beginning to get light in the east, and I was so glad that I was alive, so I could come and ask you to go to heaven; and now here I am; and I have told you my dream, and want you to go."

With other words the old man urged the royal invitation, but the blacksmith stood as one petrified. He could not speak nor move. Father Brown got up, and saying, "Good-by, John; remember you've got the invitation; remember you are asked to come," took his staff and started home.

The blacksmith seemed to come to himself, and, as one recovering from a magician's charm, he set out to pursue the labors of the day. But everything went wrong — the bellows would not work right, the hammers would not strike right, the nails would not go in right, the horses would not stand right. "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" he began to sob at last, and leaving the shop, he went home. He told his wife of Father Brown's visit. "Blessed be God!" she said. "We will send the horse and buggy and have him come back." "Yes," he added, "for I mean to accept the invitation, and I want him to pray to God to keep me true and steadfast to the end."

Selected from a tract by
Sister Mildred Skiles

OFFENCES AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Harold S. Martin

The least understood Person of the Godhead is the Holy Spirit, and yet a proper understanding of the Holy Spirit and His ministry is basic to many facets of the Christian life.

The early Brethren wrote a summary statement of basic beliefs, and one of the cardinal truths was the fact that we believe in "the personality of the Holy Spirit." Yet many times we fail to recognize the Holy Spirit as a Person. For one thing, when we use the word "person" we usually think of human beings. We have a tendency to expect a "person" to be like a human being — with a material body and an immaterial soul. Another reason why we tend to forget that the Holy Spirit is a person, is that we don't associate personality with the word "spirit." We speak of "the spirit of the times," or say that "a spirit of expectancy swept over the crowd as they awaited the arrival of the president" — and thus we use the word "spirit" in a neutral sense.

In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is designated as a Person. Twelve times in John 16 the masculine pronoun is used. For example, Jesus says, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will

guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit is not only a person, however, He is a divine person. He has characteristics possessed only by God. He is eternal in His nature. He does things that only God can do. The Holy Spirit had part in creation (Job 33:4), and in the resurrection (Romans 8:11), and He plays a major part in our regeneration (Titus 3:5). Only God can put a new nature in a corrupt individual.

When one is regenerated (born again), the Holy Spirit (this divine Person) actually then comes into the heart of the newborn child of God to abide there. And thus our bodies become headquarters for God here on earth, and our hearts become God's sanctuary. It's hard to believe, but it's true. And since God lives in my body, I must be careful not to allow anything that would make Him uncomfortable or ill at ease. This is the meaning of I Corinthians 6:19-20, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's."

The fact that the Holy Spirit is a Person means that He possesses the three essentials of personality — intellect, emotion, and a will. Note that personality does not require a body. The Scripture says that the Holy Spirit knows the things of God (I Corinthians 2:10-11). He has intellect. Also, it is possible to grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). He has emotions. Also, the Bible says that the Spirit distributes spiritual gifts "as he wills" (I Corinthians 12:11). He has a will, the power to choose and to decide.

Today we want to look at those sins (or offenses) which may be committed against the Holy Spirit. He can be resisted, insulted, grieved, lied to, quenched, and blasphemed.

1. RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Acts 7, we have recorded the speech that Stephen made before the Jewish Council. He said, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7:51). The sin of resisting the Holy Spirit is often committed by unbelievers or by those who have fallen away from the faith.

The meaning of the word "resist" is "to oppose." Here is a person who knows he is a sinner by nature and by deed. Yet he is an unbeliever. He knows that Jesus died on the Cross as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the human family. He hears the Gospel and is under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit shows him his sin and pleads with him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; and he feels that this is just what he ought to do — but he refuses to do it. He has resisted the Holy Spirit.

The tragedy is this: The oftener he resists, the weaker the call becomes. And if any reader has put off the matter of salvation, let it be made clear that if you delay until the Spirit ceases to strive with you (and that can happen) — you'll go out into the great beyond a lost soul forever. So many people have the idea they can get saved whenever they get ready. But the fact is you'll get saved when the Spirit of God draws, and if He has called you for the last time, you will never get saved. God says in Genesis 6:3, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man."

There is another phase to the matter of resisting the Spirit. Just as the Holy Spirit spoke to the Jewish people through the prophets, so the Holy Spirit speaks to us today through His written Word. The Bible was written under the direction of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 7, Stephen clearly stated that the Jews resisted the Holy Spirit by opposing the message of the prophets; and so today, we resist the Holy Spirit every time we refuse to heed the message of the Bible.

If we disbelieve the Bible, we resist the testimony of the Holy Spirit — for it was the Holy Spirit who guided and guarded the writing of the Scriptures. The professor in college who substitutes the theory of evolution for the Genesis account of creation is resisting the Holy Spirit. The husband who divorces his wife because he finds her difficult to live with, is resisting the Holy Spirit. The young lady who wears immodest, form-fitting, revealing clothes, is resisting the Holy Spirit. To willfully reject the evidence of the Word of God (whether in specific command or in broad principle), is to resist the Holy Ghost. It is giving God the Holy Spirit a slap in the face.

2. BLASPHEMING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many people are alarmed about the sin of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit because Jesus said that those who commit this sin shall never be forgiven. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is a serious sin. Jesus said so. Every other sin (including murder, drunkenness, and adultery) can be forgiven — but not this one! In Matthew 12, the Scripture tells how Jesus healed a person (who because of demon possession) was blind and dumb. Jesus cast out the demon and this greatly impressed the people, so that they asked the question, "Is not this the son of David? Is not this the Messiah?" They felt this man finally must be their long-looked-for Messiah, but the Pharisees were strictly against Him. They were jealous, and in their envy and hatred for Jesus, they said, "This fellow doth not cast out devils but by Beelzebub the prince of devils." In other words, they said that Jesus was using Satanic power to cast out devils.

Jesus answered the charge by pointing out that Satan cannot work against himself. Satan would not work against himself. If Satan did that, then his own kingdom would fall, and that just couldn't be. The devil wouldn't work against himself. The devil doesn't cast out devils: Jesus continued, "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you." Jesus was casting out demons, but the power which they attributed to the devil, was really by the Holy Spirit. And then it was that Jesus said, "Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and of blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven" (Matthew 12:31). And Mark (in his parallel account) says, "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost, hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation, because they said, He hath an unclean spirit" (Mark 3:29-30). Mark gives a clear reason why Jesus said that blasphemy against the Holy Ghost would not be forgiven: "Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit."

They attributed to the devil something that was really of the Holy Spirit. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is deliberately, willfully, maliciously, and against better knowledge — giving the devil the credit for what the Spirit of God does.

We must be careful what we say about the Holy Spirit. If we don't know whether something is the work of the Spirit or the work of Satan — we had better not pass judgment. I believe in standards and the worship patterns established at my home church. I expect to live by the biblical principles that are upheld, to defend them, and to die by them — but we must be careful not to think that every other group is wrong just because they do things a bit differently from the way we do them. Many come and say, "What do you think of this preacher, or of that preacher? What about certain aspects of the charismatic movement, and the healing campaigns, and the mass evangelistic crusades?" I feel that most of these groups fail to preach the whole Gospel — but I hesitate to pass a fixed opinion about them lest I may attribute to the devil something which is really of the Holy Spirit. When it comes to the cults (and those who deny Jesus Christ), it is a different matter. But when not sure whether something is the work of the Spirit or the work of Satan, we had better not pass judgment.

To be continued
Selected from Bible Helps by
Sister Ada Whitman



Where the speech is corrupted, the mind is also. —Seneca

SCRIPTURE CAKE

This is a Christmas cake from the Bible. President Madison's wife, Dolly, was a good cake baker with deep religious convictions. She wrote this recipe so her imitators would have to read the Bible to bake the cake.

1 cup Judges 5:25
 1¾ cup Jeremiah 6:20
 ½ cup Proverbs 24:13
 6 Job 39:14
 1 Kings 10:2
 3 teaspoons Amos 4:5
 1 teaspoon Leviticus 2:13
 ¾ cup 1 Kings 4:22
 1 cup Genesis 24:11
 2 cups 1 Samuel 30:12
 2 cups Revelation 6:13
 1 cup Numbers 17:8

Selected by Sister Ruth Argo

PATIENCE

Patience is something very rare,
 One cannot find it everywhere.
 'Tis something that one always needs,
 Though many cut it down as weeds.

The ones who let it grow and bloom
 Will find it brightens every room;
 Why can't we all let it mature
 And help us our trials to endure.

— Selected

NEWS ITEM

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, the Broadwater Congregation plans to hold revival meetings July 29 to August 7. Elder Harley Flory of Defiance, Ohio, will be the evangelist.

There will be services Saturday afternoon, August 6, and Love Feast in the evening.

We invite all who can to come to these services.

Sister Bertha Dorsey, Cor.

I WOULD SEE JESUS

I would see Thee, blessed Saviour,
Walk beside me in the way,
No dark cloud shall settle o'er me
If I see Thy face today.
Oh, the love, the grace and beauty,
Beaming from Thy holy eye,
Thou are altogether lovely,
May I see Thee ever nigh!

I would see Thee, blessed Jesus,
Feel Thy presence always near,
Walking by me, dwelling with me,
Jesus, Lord, my Friend so dear.
Though the tempter may allure me,
Thou art fairer far, than he,
I shall never be found sinning
If my blessed Lord I see.

Through a glass I see but darkly,
With the veil of flesh between,
Yet Thy holy love enthralls me,
No earth cares shall intervene.
So I linger, linger near Thee,
Feast my soul on joys sublime,
Till I bear, with heavenly beauty,
Thine own image blest, divine.

Till I cross the narrow river,
Till I reach the golden strand,
I would see Thee, Lord, my Savior,
Know the leading of Thy hand.
See Thee in life's care and turmoil,
That its pains may not annoy,
Till I dwell with Thee, my Savior
In the glory land of joy.

— Selected

The oriental shepherd was always ahead of his sheep. He was IN FRONT. Any attempt upon them had to take him into account. NOW God is down in front. He is in the tomorrow. It is tomorrow that fills men with dread. But God is already there, and all tomorrows of our life have to pass Him before they can get to us.

— F. B. Meyer

Selected by Sis. Mildred Skiles

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SOME ONE

Some one has found a work to do,
Showing himself real good and true.
Some one has lost a golden hour,
Making himself a weaker power.

Some one has lived a noble life,
Pleading for peace and not for strife,
Sowing good seeds by faith and love,
Shining like stars in realms above.

Some one is battling for the right,
Changing the darkness into light,
Lending a hand to one in need,
Doing each day a precious deed.

Some one has said: "I'll be a man,
Doing today the best I can."
Some one has found a work to do,
Some one it is, but is it you?

— H. Atlee Brumbaugh
Selected

OUR HEART'S DESIRE

We believe that those who read the Bible Monitor are united in the desire to do what is right. We could hardly believe that anyone who would subscribe to this paper and would take the time to read these lines would desire to do wrong or to turn away from God. But often a problem arises in translating the heart's desires into the body's deeds. There seems too often to be opposition from self and Satan, so the good desired remains only a desire.

This is not a new problem. It has been faced by Christians of all ages. Even leaders like the Apostle Paul had to wrestle with the desires of the heart toward serving God and the desires of the flesh toward serving Satan. It is no small wonder that we have to contend with this. Jesus spoke of the willingness of the Spirit being hindered by the weakness of the flesh.

We often wish for an increased faith so we could do those things that should be a part of our Christian life. Whether the failure to do so lies in Satan's temptations or within our selfish desires, we know that we do come short. Being desirous of doing good we place ourselves under the sound of the Gospel whenever possible plus reading and studying the sacred Word alone. As desirable as these activities are, often we fail to use them to the fullest. How often while hearing the Gospel preached do we miss the point through physical weariness and spiritual dullness? So often we are prone to apply the points of the sermon to someone else. We think the preacher has done his duty if we can find in his sermon the faults of not only the world but of our Brethren as well. Perhaps the

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sermon does fit our Brother's condition so well because he is so much like us.

Self-examination is one of the traits needed by the Christian. But to be developed within the Christian's life, it must be used. If our only use of the sermons we hear or the Bible passages that we read is to apply them to another, we are not developing a sense of self-examination. Yet self-examination is necessary for us to be in a proper Spiritual condition to have a part in the Lovefeast service. We can not depend upon a short service just prior to the Lovefeast as our total preparation rather we should be examining ourselves daily. If we only find fault with our Brethren, we may miss the fault within that would cause us to partake of the sacred emblems unworthily.

In furthering our heart's desire for doing good we must remember to be not only hearers but also doers of the Word. For us to sit under the sound of the Gospel but to disregard it in our daily living is to make our Christianity vain. We often can see disregard for the Bible in the world and disobedience of the Bible's doctrines in many of the popular Churches, but how about in our own lives? It is so easy to praise the preacher for a good message on steadfastness or purity or strict living, but it is not so easy to apply these subjects to our own life. The little deeds, thoughts and words that we do are not connected with these great themes in our minds. It appears to us that a little divergence in our lives will not really matter. We feel as long as we do not violate any great principles we are doing alright. We do not want to be tied down to specific things that we should or should not do. Our concept of doing what it is right is very broad but we fail in applying ourselves to the specifics that will help us attain the broad concept that we are pursuing.

The preacher speaks on steadfastness. We are impressed with his plea for a stedfast life. But it will not be long until we falter in one way or another. The preacher speaks on purity which impresses us. But in a few days the sights around us and the reading material available to us causes our desires for purity to lessen. The preacher speaks of living according to God's Word, not in just broad terms but in very specific things. We are stirred to carry our God's will even in small things. A few days later, however, because of opposition or ridicule from within or without the Church, we go back to our old ways, leaving strict living behind. If we are to attain in our bodies what is desired in our hearts, we must make some personal applications of what we read and hear.

The desires of our hearts can not be translated into living in our strength alone; we must have the strength and direction of God. It

is He whom we are seeking to please, so who could better help us attain that desire? He is willing to help us. He understands our weakness. He wants us to do all we know that is good and right and He will supply the strength needed beyond our own.

Do you desire within your heart to please God? If so examine yourself, not your Brother, continually and follow God's Word even in the specifics. Then you will possess your heart's desire.

"IF I COULD TALK"

The Story of Too Many Dunkard Brethren Churches

A tear trickled down my window pane and was soaked into the parched ground. I shivered although the sun was blazing hot. The desolate feeling, the dry, scorched land, and the condition of despair I was in was more than I could contain and another tear oozed down over my peeling paint.

I'm a little church with a story to tell. Some of my history is a bit of joy and happiness to me, while it also is a means of making the pain worse now.

It all began decades ago when some sincere Christians under the name of Dunkard Brethren moved into the area. After much prayer and seeking God's guidance, they chose a lovely spot to build their new church. It was back in the hills amidst tall, pious pinetrees with a cool, clear stream flowing by. This was where my foundation was laid.

With lots of determination and effort a small group of men began to work on me and within a month's time I was complete. They painted me white, a shining white, and I did my best to be as bright as I could. I wanted to be a light in the community. Of course, it wasn't me but the people, who met in my Sunday after Sunday, who were the "light of the world."

Oh, the satisfaction I could see in their faces and the joy that I knew was in their hearts that first Sunday they assembled within my walls. The few hearty voices rang out with songs of praise. The Sunday school teacher told of God's plan for men's lives. But even more impressive than what he said was the way he lived. God's love radiated through him to a world of hate. I knew that with him I had one of God's dearest gems within my walls.

Two families were young and there were children. These precious souls sang about "Jesus' love," "being sunbeams," and oh, so many songs that warmed my heart.

The preacher was on fire for the Lord. God's Word echoed through my walls as he proclaimed the Word each Lord's day.

Great was the joy when we had revivals, when neighbors and friends attended. They saw the reality in serving Him, and seeing their need, many gave their hearts to the Lord.

My people were experiencing growth. What a thrill it was! I can well remember the day when I was twenty years old. There were ninety-seven attending services and how the Spirit moved! They sang, prayed, and preached like never before and left that day with a bigger desire than ever to go out and bring the lost to drink at the living water.

But now I come to the part that pierces my heart. My old enemy attacked. The devil saw our growth and progress so he attacked us with double strength, it seemed. He made doubt creep in some minds, indifference to God's commandments in others, and with all his power and might he started pulling at our young people. He whispered in their ears about ignoring their convictions when they were in school. He made them sleepy Sunday mornings so they failed to soak in the message. His strong efforts were getting results. I saw his loathsomeness creeping in many places. Last and perhaps worst he got the preacher discouraged. With that the members started walking out my doors never to return again. Oh, it hurts!

My pews were becoming empty and some who were still attending were spiritually listless. Gradually they dwindled down to eleven members. How sad! My heart ached as I looked into the eyes of a dear old saint who had remained true and faithful. There was another couple who was still hanging on tight, but already the world had laid claim on their children. Discouragement plagued the group, the community no longer showed interest, and the future looked dark.

Now, today, all hope seems gone. The only "pillar" left, went home to be with the Lord. The land is crying out with me. The vegetation needs rain. It's been a dry summer and what was green is now parched and ugly and brown. The church needs "rain." It's been a dry decade. They need a revival, some pouring on of the Spirit, some workers. What was white is now black. Even as a building I'm ugly and have lost all my neatness. My paint's peeling and the roof needs repair but there's no one to fix me.

The few left LONG to see their church grow once again. They want it to flourish in Spirit and number but to do so they need HELP! The only preacher left is up in years and failing in health. There's no young families to keep it going.

This is a plea to all! I hear there are some churches that are growing by leaps and bounds. There's more families and young

people than any of our congregations have ever seen before. I also hear they're content and don't want to ever move away to a small congregation. Oh, hear my plea! Won't you come and help? Give these people renewed hope again. Make sure your priorities are right. Put aside the many cares and concerns of life that aren't necessary. Read the stories in the Bible about the disciples who gave their all to have the Word spread. Everything else was of little importance. Remember **ONLY** what's done for Christ will last!

Won't **YOU** offer help?!

Sister Sally Stauffer
Box 188, Cuba, New Mexico 87013

SUPERIORITY COMPLEX

"And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others." Luke 18:9. The Pharisee in the parable thought he was pretty good but Christ's opinion of him was far different. He went to his house condemned — why? Because he had a superiority complex. Jesus spoke of His own need of His Father: "I can of mine own self do nothing." John 5:30a. If He needed the Father, surely we do. We may have a superior, self-righteous attitude, we may think we don't need anything, but that is when we need God the most.

"But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29. "Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts." Luke 16:15. You can justify yourself all you want to, but it will never make you any better than anyone else. You have no right to despise others, no matter how good you think you are, for we are all justified through Christ. God does know your heart and your outward, righteous appearance doesn't impress Him. He can still see the hypocrisy and sin in a self-righteous heart.

The Pharisees had a superiority complex and had set themselves on a self-righteous pedestal. If you are on a self-righteous pedestal, you have a superiority complex also. You may have a superior feeling and think that you are great, but to be great, you must be a servant of the Lord. If you put yourself up on a pedestal, you are due for a fall. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18. When you are proud and haughty, you feel self-sufficient with no need of anything or anyone. The Pharisee prayed with himself, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are..." He thought he was the greatest, but Jesus said he was condemned. Why? Because a proud heart

won't acknowledge sin and the need of God's forgiveness. This unforgiven sin stands between that heart and God.

Jesus called the Pharisees blind guides who strained out gnats and swallowed camels. There is a lot of difference in size. Are your values like theirs - lopsided and unreasonable - or are they in good balance? The Pharisees were very fussy about keeping the outside clean but left the inside filthy. You must be clean inside before the outside - what people see totally, not just your clothes or the way your hair looks - can be right at all. People may be respectably clothed and clean, yet an evil heart will permeate the exterior and spoil it all. They are like whited sepulchres - a fine exterior but the interior is nothing but corruption.

The scribes and Pharisees got in the way of others, hindering them spiritually. They weren't really interested in anyone's spiritual welfare, but they hunted all over to "convert" someone, only to make them worse off than they were themselves. They mistreated widows, depriving them even of life's necessities in their greed. Long prayers in public were one of their ways of covering up, but Jesus saw through their veneer. He knew what was underneath - proud, holier-than-thou, self-centered hearts. If your heart is like theirs, you can be sure He knows it. He always knows when you think you're the greatest and all you have is a superiority complex.

The Pharisees expected more of others than they were willing to do themselves. Their works were done for look's sake, not because they loved to serve the Lord. They loved to be looked up to, to have others depend on them. They tithed even the tiniest seeds, but omitted the more important matters - judgment, mercy and faith. They thought that going to the trouble of tithing in the tiniest detail made them acceptable to God, that they were better than those about them because they did thus and so. Yet, Jesus said they had sinned - by omission. Tithing doesn't always come from the heart, but judgment or justice, mercy, and faith all must come from the heart. This is what Jesus wants - response from the heart. Anything less is not acceptable.

A minister was hired by a doctor to paint a room, a job which should have taken a week or so. While there, he read the Bible and told stories to the children, prayed before he ate, and so forth. He puttered around on that job for twelve weeks and still wasn't done. The contractor asked for an explanation and there was none except greed. The bill was outlandish and the contractor paid most of it himself, rather than let his doctor-friend be defrauded. The doctor's reaction: "If that is Christianity, I'd rather be a heathen!"

Claiming Christ as your Lord and Savior means nothing unless it is genuine. Your claims and your deeds must go together. The Pharisees made alot of superior spiritual claims, but they stood condemned before Christ. No matter how superior you feel, you have no right to look down on another. Jesus paid the price of salvation for us. You must come to God through Him. The only thing you have to give is your heart but even that - the best that you have - doesn't pay the bill. There is no room in a Christian's life for a superiority complex. If you have one, take it to Jesus and let Him cleanse you. He will then give you that which is the greatest - a heart full of love.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

SAUL'S FIRST MISTAKE

I SAMUEL 13:1-16

After Saul had reigned over Israel as king for two years, he had accumulated a chosen army of three thousand men. Two thousand were with Saul and one thousand were with his son, Jonathan. Jonathan was a brave man, who trusted God to help him. Jonathan and his men fought a garrison of the Philistines and overcame them. This was a great victory for Israel.

As soon as Saul heard this, he caused a trumpet to be blown throughout the land. This was the way the people got the news of what was happening then. A man would blow a trumpet in a town, when the people heard, they would gather together, then it would be told them what had happened. It seems like Saul wanted the praise of the people for something that Jonathan had done. The Bible records that all Israel heard that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines.

Of course, the Philistines were angry against Israel. They gathered themselves together to fight with thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen besides a multitude that couldn't be numbered. Israel had no chariots and no way to make swords or spears. At that time the only blacksmiths were Philistines. The men of Israel had not learned how to forge metal to make weapons and the Philistines wouldn't make any for them. The men of Israel were afraid and hid themselves in caves and rocks and pits. Some of the people even moved out of the country to get away from the Philistines.

Saul was in Gilgal waiting for Samuel, the priest of God. Samuel

had promised to come in seven days to offer sacrifices. Saul didn't want to battle the Philistines without God's blessing but when the people began to go away from him, Saul got impatient. The seventh day finally arrived, still Samuel hadn't come. Saul said to his servants, "Bring a burnt offering to me and peace offerings." And Saul offered the burnt offering.

As soon as Saul had finished offering, here came Samuel - just as he had promised. Samuel asked Saul, "What have you done?" Saul replied, "I did it because the people were scattered and you hadn't arrived and the Philistines were gathering themselves together." And Samuel said, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of God, which He commanded you. If you had, your kingdom would be established forever, but now your kingdom shall not continue."

God had made Saul king of Israel, but not a priest. In offering sacrifices that were only for the priest to do, Saul disobeyed God. He was impatient and just couldn't wait. Just because something doesn't work out as we think it should, do we get impatient and do things we shouldn't? Jesus said, "In your patience possess ye your souls." We should learn to wait on God. David said, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he will strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Brother Rudy Cover

OFFENCES AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Harold S. Martin

Continued from July 1, 1978 Bible Monitor

3. QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT

The word "quench" is found in I Thessalonians 5:19, where we are admonished to "quench not the Spirit." The phrase "quench not the Spirit" is nowhere formally explained in the Scriptures, but it is usually a fire that we quench. In Ephesians 6:16, for example, we are told to put on the whole armor of God so that we might be able "to quench the fiery darts of the wicked (one)." The Holy Spirit is symbolized by fire at several places in the Scriptures, and therefore it is fitting that the word "quench" should be used in connection with our attitudes toward the Holy Spirit.

The word "quench" means "to suppress" or "to stifle." Quenching the spirit is simply saying "no" to His message and to His voice. The Spirit speaks primarily through two channels — the written Word (as we read the Bible), and the spoken word (as we hear the preaching of the Gospel). And the Spirit's message is like a fire. A

fire illuminates, and just so the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God when we read it, and helps us understand it. He illuminates the message. I Corinthians 2:14 says that God's truth must be "spiritually discerned," and in the same chapter, we are reminded that the deep things of God are "revealed unto us by his Spirit." If I will not accept what He shows me as I read, I'm quenching the Spirit, and the light that is in me is becoming darkness.

The Spirit also speaks through the teaching and the preaching of the Word. And if we are urged from within, while the Word is being expounded, to say "Amen" or "Praise the Lord" — there is nothing wrong with saying it. The New Testament indicates that the manifestations of the Spirit occupied a large place in the life of the early church, especially among the Corinthian brethren. In fact, they seem to have gone overboard in the matter of the manifestations of the Spirit, because Paul emphatically declared that their worship services must be conducted decently and in order. But in the church at Thessalonica, there seems to have been an opposite situation. It appears that their services were growing more and more cold and formal, and Paul reminded them to "quench not the Spirit."

In Corinth, let everything be done decently and in order.

In Thessalonica, quench not the Holy Spirit.

In other words, we need to be careful that we don't go overboard in our enthusiasm and seek "strange fire," and yet at the same time, we must avoid becoming cold and formal, and thus dampen enthusiasm and fervor. There should be a balance between structure and order, and at the same time, there must be an opportunity for the Spirit to work during an assembly of believers for worship. Thus we must not stifle the urge to say, "Praise the Lord" — but even more important — we must guard against quenching the Spirit by merely becoming one who hears the Word and then fails to do it.

4. GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

The key Bible passage is found in Ephesians 4:30 which says, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." The Holy Spirit is the Guide and Director of the newborn child of God, just as a parent is the guardian and teacher of a child. When we acted contrary to the advice and warning and counsel of our parents, we hurt their feelings and grieved their hearts. And just so, to act contrary to the counsel and direction of the Holy Spirit, is to grieve the Spirit, and to hurt the heart of God.

The meaning of the Greek word translated "grieve" means "to be

in heaviness" or "to be sorrowful." It is the same word that is used many other places in the Scriptures: For example, the rich young ruler went away "sorrowful." The disciples in the upper room became "exceeding sorrowful" when Jesus told them that one of them would betray Him. And just so it is possible for you and for me (as believers in Christ) to produce sorrow and heaviness in the heart of the Spirit of God.

The setting (in which the words "grieve not the Spirit" is found)—names a number of misdemeanors that make the Spirit sorrowful. Verse 31 says, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you... and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:30-32).

Bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking are all sins that grieve the Holy Spirit.

Bitterness is the translation of a word which means "a long-standing resentment; a spirit which refuses to become reconciled." So many of us have a way of nursing our bad feelings just enough to keep them warm, and we brood over the insults and injuries received in the past. The more we think about these things, the deeper-rooted they become. Bitterness grieves the Holy Spirit, and thus every one of us should pray earnestly that God will help us to forget.

Anger is smoldering resentment; it is a deep-seated spirit of ill-will; it is kind of selfish, sinful, ill-temper that simmers on for days. Sometimes the person who is angry, refuses to talk; he won't say anything; he acts abnormally; he smolders with resentment because of something that someone else said or did to him.

Wrath (by way of contrast) speaks of storms of uncontrolled temper. Wrath is the kind of anger that quickly flares up and just as quickly dies down. It is the kind of conduct that some display when the car won't start or the meals aren't ready on time. Wrath is anger with the lid off. One can be angry, and bite his lip and keep it. But wrath is displayed in slamming doors and kicking things around. Wrath is the kind of thing that suddenly boils over; anger is the kind of thing that simmers on for days. Both are sins that deeply grieve the Holy Spirit.

Another breach of conduct which brings pain to the Holy Spirit — is clamor. Clamor is loud, insulting language. It speaks of raised voices, violent arguments, and yelling at one another. There are very few homes where there's never a loud, harsh, unkind word spoken. There are very few places where there is no undue scolding and blaming and insinuating. Many children never heard

their parents apologize to one another (or to the children) for loud words they had carelessly spoken in an unguarded moment. If you get loud and use insulting language when the wheels of the home don't turn to suit your desires, you bring sorrow to the Spirit of God.

A final sin listed in Ephesians 4, which grieves the Holy Spirit, is the sin of evil speaking. To "speak evil" of another is to rehearse the shortcomings of the other person with a critical, fault-finding spirit. There's probably no other sin in the Bible that's condemned more clearly than the needless repetition of the faults of other people. Andrew Blackwood says he knew a woman who loudly proclaimed that she was filled with holiness, and when she shouted "Hallelujah" it seemed that the windows rattled in the house next door, and yet, he says, "In all the years I knew her, I never heard her say a kind word about anyone." This, along with the other sins named in the foregoing paragraphs, grieves the Spirit of God.

To "grieve" the Holy Spirit, is to act contrary to His direction and counsel, especially in the area of our speech and thus make Him sorrowful and sad.

To "resist" the Holy Spirit is to willfully reject the teachings of the Word of God.

To "blaspheme" the Holy Spirit is to attribute to the devil something that really is of God.

To "quench" the Holy Spirit is to stifle the voice of the Spirit, and to suppress the conviction He brings.

It is a serious thing to offend the Holy Spirit. Offending Him robs us of peace and of usefulness. And if one continues to grieve and insult and quench Him, it may rob that person of his eternal reward.

Selected from Bible Helps by
Sister Ada Whitman

DELICATE MATTER OF INDELICACY

Some time ago, a reader posed the question, "Just what is wrong with mixed bathing, or public swimming?"

The nakedness so paraded in mixed bathing is most sinful, and such nakedness has always been condemned by the Scriptures as being most reprehensible. It's said that if the apple is the fruit that made Adam and Eve conscious of their nakedness, then an apple orchard should be set out by each municipal bathing pool.

If the nakedness of Bathsheba could so stir David, a man after God's own heart, to such adulterous evils, then how shall the

scantly attired bathing beauty affect any healthy young male today? The modern lad or lass has very little more clothing than that worn by Bathsheba. Too, it is cut and fashioned with calculated cunning to stir the opposite sex, and the "sexier" the garment, the more highly it is praised. Thus the modern bather is like Adam and Eve in one respect, in that "they were naked and were not ashamed." Gen. 2:25. But we have a knowledge of our nakedness, and should feel shamefully exposed in such attire.

During the last war the Nazi collaborators in France were disrobed and driven out of town to intensify their shame; yet every picture I saw of them, they still had on more clothing than shown in newspaper picturization of the bathing beauties in our own land. But where is there any sense of shame manifested by such a brazen display? And, back to the Bible, if the young man in Mark 14:52 fled because he stood before them naked, should not our modern bathers flee from the eyes of the opposite sex?

Pertaining to spiritual apparel, Jesus said, "Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." Rev. 16:15. But there is no vital lesson for our modern bathers in this, for they walk naked and feel no shame. They openly parade their shame as their glory. Nakedness doesn't bother them for they wouldn't feel at home in clothing. They glory in the sensation that their nakedness genders in others, and gloat in their "sex appeal." Shameful and yet so shameless!

"I desire therefore that the men pray in every place, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and disputing. In like manner, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety." I Tim. 2:8-9. Now, would the well "undressed man" feel like praying beside the public bathing pool? I grant you he could well remember the words of the Lord Jesus, "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." Matt. 26:41. But he has been courting the temptation, and not trying to "shun the very appearance of evil." The Book says, "If a man be overtaken in a trespass," but this one was trying to overtake the trespass, not being overtaken by it.

But do the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety? Why, any sane person knows the answer to that one. It is all too evident that they care nothing for convention or decency. Sobriety is wholly unknown by them. Rather, they parade their nakedness with shameless pride. They care not for offending a weaker brother.

No sober thinking person can assign one noble motive for this modern craze. Modern mixed bathing is not found in nobility and purity. All must recognize that good has not resulted from this

union of the sexes in the bath. And it is well known that much harm has been spawned from the practice. Religious people have almost universally condemned it, while it is championed by the course and the vulgar. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Lastly, all should recognize that the appeal of mixed bathing is not to be found in the water. Every picture shows the bathing beauty draped in a seductive pose on the bank, not in the water. As the sirens of Circe lured their victims from the rocks above treacherous waters, so do these sirens entice their next victim. Therefore the premium is placed upon a shameless display of lascivious "wares", and not on swimming ability. The bathing idea is only a guise which affords the shameless romp, the opportunity to preen before the lustful, adulterous eyes of the opposite sex. And it affords the lewd, and evil minded pervert the opportunity to oggle and lust.

So to all you parents we suggest, "If you don't want indecent men casting indecent looks at your daughter, then don't let her fare among indecent people while dressed indecently."

Selected from August 1, 1969 Bible Monitor

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST

August 6 — "A Pound of Ointment" - Anointing. John 12:1-11; James 5:14-15.

August 13 — "The Hour is Come." John 12:12-36.

August 20 — Salvation and Judgement. John 12:37-50.

August 27 — The Ordinance of Feet Washing. John 3:1-17.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) Would you consider Lazarus, Martha and Mary as poor people? John 12:3.
- (2) What do you consider the greatest blessing in James 5:15?
- (3) Whom do you think "the prince of this world" refers to in John 12:31?
- (4) There were many among the rulers of the Jews that believed on Jesus. Why did they not confess Him? John 12:43.
- (5) Why do you think that feet washing as an ordinance is necessary? John 13:8, 14, 17; Matt. 28:20.



If we were faultless we should not be so much annoyed by the defects of those with whom we associate. — Fenelon.

NEWS ITEMS

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matt. 5:6.

Come with us and be filled at the Dunkard Brethren Church of Dallas Center, Iowa. Revival meetings from July 30 through August 13. Bro. Jack Snyder of Stevens, Pennsylvania, is to be the evangelist.

Our meetings will close with all day services on August 12 and 13. Lovefeast will be the evening of the 12th.

Remember to pray for these meetings. Come if you can.

Sister Juanita Reed, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to hold Revival Meetings August 13 through 27. Elder Allen Eberly of Ephrata, Pennsylvania will be the evangelist. Services will begin at 7:30 nightly. On Saturday the 26th, there will be services at 10:00 a.m. with our Lovefeast at 7:00 that night.

All are invited to these services. Pray that souls may be won to the Lord through these efforts.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation will hold a Revival, August 13 through 27, beginning with a Harvest Meeting. Bro. Paul Hartz, Palmyra, Pennsylvania will be with us to deliver the messages. We invite all to worship with us and ask to be remembered in your prayers.

Sister Sharon Swihart, Cor.

APPRECIATION

With deep appreciation, I want to express my sincere thanks for the many prayers and well wishes and also to the more than fifty Brethren and Sisters who remembered me with letters and cards while a patient in the Lancaster General Hospital.

Especially, did I appreciate the scrap-book, from the Bethel and Lititz Congregations. Thanks.

May God richly bless anyone so thoughtful.

Brother Ray S. Shank

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR AUGUST, 1978

COVENANTS

Memory Verse: Gen. 6:18

But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

Tues. 1-Gen. 6:1-22

Wed. 2-Gen. 9:1-19

Thur. 3-Gen. 15:1-21

Fri. 4-Gen. 17:1-27

Sat. 5-Gen. 21:22-34

Memory Verse: Gen. 15:18

In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Sun. 6-Gen. 26:1-16

Mon. 7-Gen. 26:17-35

Tues. 8-Gen. 31:1-16

Wed. 9-Gen. 31:17-35

Thur. 10-Gen. 31:36-55

Fri. 11-Ex. 2:1-25

Sat. 12-Ex. 6:1-13

Memory Verse: Ex. 24:7

And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.

Sun. 13-Ex. 19:1-25

Mon. 14-Ex. 23:14-33

Tues. 15-Ex. 24:1-18

Wed. 16-Ex. 31:1-18

Thur. 17-Ex. 34:1-17

Fri. 18-Ex. 34:18-35

Sat. 19-Lev. 2:1-16

Memory Verse: Ex. 31:16

Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

Sun. 20-Lev. 24:1-23

Mon. 21-Lev. 26:1-25

Tues. 22-Lev. 26:26-46

Wed. 23-Num. 10:1-13

Thur. 24-Num. 10:29-36

Fri. 25-Num. 14:1-25

Sat. 26-Num. 14:26-45

Memory Verse: Ex. 34:10

And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord; for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.

Sun. 27-Num. 18:1-19

Mon. 28-Num. 18:20-32

Tues. 29-Deut. 4:1-24

Wed. 30-Deut. 4:25-49

Thur. 31-Deut. 5:1-21

Memory Verse: Lev. 26:44

And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the Lord their God.

Deut. 5:3

The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.

Lester Fisher
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

AUGUST 1, 1978

NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A SPECIAL PRESENT

God gave us a present
each single day,

A present to use
our very own way.

The present is special,
It's valuable, too,
It's something we need
for all that we do.

We need it to sleep
to eat and to grow,
To listen and learn
All the things we should know.

We use it to help
and be thoughtful and kind
We need it to think
and for using our mind.

We use it to laugh
and to listen and pray
God's present is TIME
Let's thank Him each day!

— Vivian Gouled

Selected by Sister Ruby Sowers

A PRICE TO PAY

Everytime we go to the store we are made aware of prices. Usually we take notice of prices because of their constant spiral upward. We know if we wish to acquire an item we must pay the price demanded or we will have to go without. Whatever the price we must pay it. This is true not only in the marketplace but in Spiritual affairs also.

One of the prices we have to pay when we hire another to help us is wages. The hired hand is paid a predetermined amount for each hour, day, week or month that he is in our employ. If we are working for another, we often look forward to payday when we will receive our wages. Paul tells us that sin also has a payday. "For the wages of sin is death." Rom. 6:23a. Sin may seem so innocent, so pleasant, and so harmless but there is a price attached to it. The sins of youth seem especially tempting. They are just a few "wild oats" but unfortunately "wild oats" will not make an acceptable crop in God's sight. Too often even those who are young are called from this life in the midst of their misdeeds and sins. They find out too late there is a price to pay.

The wages of this life are paid upon certain days. The wages of sin are collectible at anytime, yet often are delayed until least expected. Many have not only sown their "wild oats" but have continued in a sinful life. Later as sin makes its very apparent marks upon the body, they may curse the day they began the sinful habits that exact such a price in suffering and expense. The lung and heart disease caused directly or indirectly by smoking and drinking is but one of the prices that must be paid. There is a price exacted socially for sin. The jails and prisons of the land are full.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

AUGUST 1, 1978

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Many more who have not broken the laws of the land will find that though they escaped the prison of this world, they will not escape paying the full price for breaking the moral and Spiritual laws of God. Although they have lived good lives in the sight of the government, they will be found guilty before God because they disregarded His commands. They forgot that there is a price to pay. God laid down His law concerning a payday in His dealings with Adam and Eve. He gave them all they could ever desire or use yet they lusted after the one forbidden fruit. Adam and Eve had a payday of shame, guilt and lost privileges. Worst of all their sin brought death not only to them but to all of their descendants.

Sin brings physical death through the destruction of the body. Sin also brings Spiritual death through separation from an all-Holy God who can not tolerate sin. So mankind not only collects a temporal paycheck on payday, but must face another payday before God's judgment seat.

Man has a deserved price to pay but God has also paid a price. The price He paid was not required by the force of another but by His love for man. Paul continues in Rom. 6:23, "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." A just God demands the exacting of the penalty for sin — death. But a loving God turns around and provides the sacrifice — His Son — that will remove man's penalty. Only the Love of God and the Perfection of His Son could accomplish this great feat in man's behalf. God paid the price. The darkness that surrounded the cross spoke of the anguish of a loving Father's broken heart. He could not bear to look upon His Son's death — because His perfect, ever-obedient Son had become sin in His Sight. He could not look upon such a scene especially as Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Could any but God have paid such a price of anguish, mercy and love?

The songwriter brings to our minds that there is a price for all to pay.

Must Jesus bear the cross alone
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for every one,
And there's a cross for me.

Jesus paid the supreme price for our souls but we have a price to pay also. We can not expect that our journey will be on a "flowery bed of ease." If we have been bought with such a price could we expect that as His representatives in this world we would be treated any better than He was? He was hated, abused, misunderstood and misrepresented by most, only a few chose to love and

serve Him. We should not expect any better treatment for ourselves in this alien world.

There is a price to pay. Do you wish to pay the sinner's price — death? Or the Christian's price — identification with Christ?

SCHOOL'S OUT! HOORAY!

From the little first grader to the high school graduate, the shout is the same. About the first question asked is, "Did you pass?" How important it is to pass.

School's out! Hooray! But is it really? Those of us who have reached the age of accountability know that we are still in school. Our text book in this School of Higher Learning is the Bible.

On the very first page we get into arithmetic. Gen. 1:5, "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." Seven days, He tells us about. He divided the light from the darkness. He created all things, and all living creatures. He told them to be fruitful and multiply. God placed them in the beautiful Garden of Eden. After Eve listened to the serpent and she and Adam sinned, God said unto the woman, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Gen. 3:16-19.

Gen. 3:25, "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken." What a stern lesson that was in school discipline.

In the last chapter of our text book, Rev. 22:18-19, we read, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away (subtract) from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book." How shall we know if we do not study? We are told in II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

This is not a light course we are taking in arithmetic. II Peter 1:5-8 tells us, "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

History and Geography. We must dig deep in the Bible. The Bible truths are there. Gal. 3:24, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

Grammar is also to be learned. Col. 4:6, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Tit. 2:7-8, "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works; in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."

Physical Education is a part of our course. Heb. 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." We must keep our eyes on our goal: Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. I Cor. 9:24, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain."

How are you doing? Are you going to pass? You can know. The Apostle John tells us, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

The Apostle Paul knew. II Tim. 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: And not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Others will know if we are going to pass. Jesus says, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have LOVE one to another." John 13:33.

Jesus said, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." Alpha is the first letter and Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. Jesus is the Word. The Bible is complete like the alphabet. John 1:1-5.

When we have passed through the Valley of the Shadow into the Eternal, then, and only then, can we shout, "School is out! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord."

Sister Edyth Kline

FUNERAL SERMON

THE DEPARTURE OF A SOLDIER

II Timothy 4:6-8

We are assembled here on a very solemn occasion. The summons of death has come for our brother, and he has answered the call.

The service today is primarily for those of us who are living. There is nothing we can say that will reach the ear of our departed brother, so we speak to those of us who continue on in the race of life.

Our Scripture text is found in II Timothy 4:6-8, where the aged Apostle Paul senses that death is soon to come and that his time on earth is drawing to a close. He says: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand; I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

When Paul wrote these words, he was nearing the close of his earthly journey. He was an old man; he had preached more than thirty years; he was writing this letter from a dark, gloomy Roman prison; he knew that the hour of his death was just around the corner. But his message was not a message of despair — it was a message of victory and faith and hope!

Many people look at death as a dark hole into which a person stumbles when he breathes his last mortal breath. But not so for the Christian. Death is a moment of victory. The Bible says in II Corinthians 5, to be "absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." This house in which we live (the body) becomes fragile and weak, and eventually breaks down, and finally is laid away in the earth. But the Bible says there is a better house provided — one that is eternal and will last forever. In our text today, Paul looks at the present course (verse 6), at the past conflict (verse 7), and at the future crown (verse 8).

1. THE PRESENT COURSE (II Timothy 4:6)

Paul says, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." Right now, he says, I'm ready. There's no

sign of apprehension in these words. Paul was ready to go; he had no regrets; he stepped aside graciously. The Apostle Paul lived in such a way that when he came to the moment of death, he had nothing to do, but simply to die. And that is the way every one of us should live.

Every person knows that in the normal course of events, death is going to come. We are all marching in the long, sad parade of death. It is just as natural to die as it is to be born. One person dies just about every second; sixty die every minute; three thousand six hundred every hour; eighty-six thousand four hundred die every day. The 89th Psalm says, "What man is he that lives, and shall not see death?"

In our text, Paul senses that death is soon coming, and he says, "The time of my departure is at hand." The word "departure" is an interesting word. Paul doesn't say, "My end is coming." He says, "My departure is at hand." The word translated "departure" was a word used by the Greek sailors of Paul's day to indicate "a loosening of anchor." They loosened anchor at one port, which implied of course, that they were setting sail for another port. The picture is this: Paul says, "I am about to loosen anchor here in this life and to set sail for the shores of eternity." Paul had sailed out over the Mediterranean Sea many a time and felt the ship heave over the stormy waves — but now he was about to set sail on a voyage that ended in the presence of God. The important thing is to be able to say like Paul, "I am ready to be offered."

Someone will say, "But preacher, how can I get ready?" The Scriptures say that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and because God is holy and a just God, He does not overlook sin. This means that because everyone of us has sinned, everyone of us is subject to the penalty for sin — death (Romans 6:23). That's bad news, but there is good news too! God has provided a remedy. The remedy is that God has given His own Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty which we rightfully deserved to pay. We read about it in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." Your eternal destiny is wrapped up in the decision you make about Jesus Christ (1 John 5:12). Faith and trust in Jesus Christ will issue in a life of loyalty and devotion to God, and ALL who in simple childlike faith receive Jesus Christ into their hearts (John 1:12) and live for Him (Hebrews 5:9), can face death with the same sure, confident hope that the Apostle Paul had.

2. THE PAST CONFLICT (II Timothy 4:7)

As he looked back over the past, Paul said, "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith." The Christian life is represented as a conflict (a warfare). Paul realized that this life is not a playground, but a battleground. There are battles to fight and victories to win. It is a never-ending conflict with the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is a war against unbelief, false teachings, and tendencies toward self-heartedness and lukewarmness. The hymnwriter says:

"My soul be on thy guard;
Ten thousand foes arise;
The hosts of sin are pressing hard
To draw thee from the skies."

As Paul looked back over life and he thought about the past conflict, he could say that he tried his best. He put forth every last ounce of energy into contending for the faith. He says, "I have fought a good fight; I have kept the faith." Surely this should be a challenge to each one of us, to so run the race of life, that when we come to the final moments, we will have no regrets.

May God help each of us to fight evil and unrighteousness, and to uphold and maintain the truths of the Scriptures, and to live in such a way that when we come to the borders of death, we will like Paul, be able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

3. THE FUTURE CROWN (II Timothy 4:8)

Paul says, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord,.... shall give me on that day; and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing." In the athletic contests of Paul's day, the victor was crowned with a beautiful wreath made of leaves. But the Apostle speaks here of a crown that will never fade nor shrivel up. In I Cor. 9:25, the Christian life is compared to the running of a race: "Every man that striveth for the mastery, is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we are incorruptible."

Those who participated in the Greek Olympic Games, laid aside everything that would hinder their chances of winning the contest. They did without certain foods; they exercised at regular intervals; they went to all this trouble and sacrifice and self-denial merely to obtain a crown that soon withered and faded away. And just so, Paul says, the Christian life is a race — and for those who work and sacrifice and observe the rules — there is going to be a special crown. We don't know the details; we don't know exactly what the crown will be like — but we do know that there is going to be a reward for faithfulness to Christ.

There will be no more tears and heartaches; no more pain and sorrow. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither shall there be any more pain (Revelation 21:4).

To the bereaved family and friends, we want simply to say this: It is comforting to know that our departed brother had chosen the way that leads home. He openly confessed his need of a Saviour and his belief that Jesus Christ bore the punishment that he rightfully deserved. I am sure that our brother found life to be a battleground (like Paul did, and like each one of us does), but now his conflict is over. Surely we would not want to call him back to this life.

Certainly it is a sad circumstance to go to the funeral of a Christian friend, and see the body lowered into the silent grave, and then we go home and leave him behind. But really, for the Christian, it is not that we go home and leave him behind! Rather, he has gone home and left us behind. My prayer is that the memory of our brother's life might linger in our hearts, and that it might bless us and bring us closer to God.

Brother Harold S. Martin
R. 10, Box 49, York, Pennsylvania 17404

IT WAS ALL SHE HAD

A young woman showed me a Bible which had belonged to her father and now was hers. The Bible showed much use as the cover was badly worn and mended in several places. She opened it to Psa. 46:1 where the pages were yellowed and tear-stained. During times of distress, this is where she turned and left the Bible open there much of the time. She knew nothing about salvation then as the Church she had attended early in her life didn't preach it. But she found this verse and clung to it: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." She said, "It was all I had."

Her father, who loved her very much, died when she was five. From then on, whenever she needed someone to love and care for her, no one did, no matter how desperate her need. Thus went her life until she found Jesus. She was at home, alone, praying, when she found Him. She understood very little of the plan of salvation then and what God expected of her, but He gave her a peace that she had never known before. She knew God really loved her and cared about her, even if no one else ever did.

Truly God is her refuge, her strength, her help — right when she needs someone. She doesn't have to wait for help, she doesn't have to seek help from those who don't care. She now has

Someone who cares about every need that she has. She missed alot in her early life because of not knowing Christ and how to have access to God through Him, but she held on to what she knew. The way to receive Christ is revealed in God's Word; the promises are there for all who are in Christ. Have you sought Him and claimed these promises, or are you letting them slide by, unnoticed and unclaimed? What are YOU holding on to?

A promise does you no good unless you claim it and believe God that it shall be done. Without faith, it is impossible to please Him, which simply means taking Him at His Word. This woman had a very meager faith, but she acted on what little she knew to do. You who know so much and do so little, what excuse do you have? If she had known of the peace and the blessings that Christ would have given her, she would have come to Him for help. What about you? You know of Christ; all He can give is waiting there for you. Why do you not claim it and cling to Him?

People cling to other people, they cling to things, money and social position. If these supports were all taken away, what would you have left to cling to? Is God your refuge? Is He the one you cling to through Christ? There is no peace outside of Christ; there is nothing stable to cling to except His love. We all need His love to make us secure. If we cling to any other thing, we can't have peace. His love is the only thing which provides us with complete protection in every area of life. If Christ's love is all you have, then you have everything you need.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18. If Christ is all you have, what else do you need? He came to bring the good news of salvation to the poor; this means you don't need any money to obtain it. Salvation is free, it is first in importance, but the blessings don't stop there.

Christ came to heal the brokenhearted, ones whose spirits have been crushed by grief or despair. He came to preach deliverance or release to those who are held captive. Even though you are a slave or in prison, He can set your spirit free. He can give you sight again — physically, but He can also open your eyes spiritually. You who are bruised and broken down by calamity, He can deliver you. He can set you free.

When you become aware of His complete care and concern for you, you can then begin to realize just how much He loves you. Christ died for you; He made the atonement for your sins. He arose from the grave, victorious over death, and in so doing, He made it

possible for you to have eternal life as well as forgiveness for your sins. Why did He? Because He loves you. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.

Regardless of the mess your life is in, you can come to Him. Christ has already redeemed you. All you need to do is accept Him and cling to Him. He can heal you. He can deliver you. He can set you free. He can give you a spiritual vision which you haven't dreamed is possible. Is Christ all you have, all you want? When He is, then you have all there is!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

Many people are confused today concerning the various interpretations of scripture confronting them. The question is often asked, "Who is right?" And seemingly there is no good answer because all or most of the denominations and cults today claim to believe in the Bible. This is especially true of independant organizations. Over and over again they expound on the fact that they preach only the pure Word of God.

This writing is written in the spirit of St. John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." The Holy Spirit has revealed unto me very clearly that I must love those who disagree with me as long as they are true, born-again Christians, which can be known by the fact they uphold basic Bible truths. (I am speaking of love for a Brother. We must also love sinners but this is a different type of love.)

Now then, I would like to share with you some truths which I found to be extremely helpful in understanding scripture. The first thing I would recommend when reading scripture is that you remember that one scripture always COMPLEMENTS the other and NEVER NEGATES any other portion of scripture. "Proof texting" can be very dangerous when it is used to cancel out explicit scriptures on a given subject.

A caution to be followed, when forming doctrine or opinion on a scriptural subject, is never form an opinion on what a scripture DOES NOT say on a subject. This leaves room for error galore. Many otherwise sound, fundamental teachers and preachers fall into this trap.

We must keep in mind that scripture was given in PRO-

GRESSIVE REVELATION. Jesus Christ is the full and final revelation of God. All writers after the ascension of Jesus are in perfect harmony with His teachings and precepts. Furthermore, all of Christ's teachings are for CHRISTIANS OF ALL AGES! Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." While it is true that Jesus Christ always existed along with the Father, He was not REVEALED FULLY until the New Testament era. Hence, God's PERFECT WILL was made known in the New Testament. II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," COMPLEMENTS not negates St. John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Men's "pet sayings" which sound good to the ear should not have any effect whatsoever on a person's understanding of scripture. A lot of preachers will read scripture after scripture to cancel out other scriptures then follow with a "cute saying."

We must be very careful not to take verses out of context and make doctrines out of them. All true doctrine is verified by multiple scriptures. It is true that some Bible truths are only spelled out in one portion of scripture but other scriptures will complement and verify the spirit of it.

Understanding and knowledge of original meanings of word and phrases is always helpful. But do not be deceived into thinking that a man's knowledge is always a sure sign that he is scripturally sound. St. John 16:13, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." This is in perfect harmony with Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." And this is complemented by I John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." And all these are in Heavenly, Divine accord with St. John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Admittedly there are some scriptures which appear to be hard to reconcile with others. But this is only because man has limited understanding. The best advice I have heard on this is, "Read scripture like you eat fish. Take the bones out and lay them aside while you enjoy the meat." Also, sometimes it is hard to determine where to put the emphasis. When scripture complements other

scripture, many times we must decide which is the thrust of the idea in question and which is the harmonizing factor. It is good to remember that a positive statement can never be cancelled out by a negative aspect of that statement.

I Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." The Bible is not a confusing book as many would have you believe. Men make it confusing by putting their ideas into scriptures. They want to INTERPRET scripture instead of allowing it to speak for itself.

When studying scripture be sure to pray for understanding. The Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth if you allow Him to. However it is hard to read the scriptures with an entirely "open mind." We are filled with prejudices, pre-conceptions and human "common sense". We must work at understanding scripture. II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approval unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the truth."

I would close with this thought. Do not accept any doctrine or teaching because it is a popular one. Many sincere, honest men have fallen victim to the lies of Satan. St. Luke 18:8b, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" This is complemented by St. Matthew 7:14, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

May we sincerely search His Word that we may love Him more, be true disciples of Him, and follow the true way that leads to Heaven.

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St., Palmyra, Pa. 17078

MARRIAGES

WOLFE - NOECKER

Sis. Sylvia Wolfe, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Verling Wolfe, R. 1, Bethel, Pennsylvania and Bro. Richard Noecker, son of Bro. and Sis. Samuel Noecker, R. 1, Auburn, Pennsylvania were united in marriage, April 29, 1978 at the Tulpehocken High School, New Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania. The ceremony was performed by Elder James Kegerreis after a sermon by Bro. David Kegerreis. The couple will reside along R. 1, Bethel, Pennsylvania 19507.

SNYDER - BURKHOLDER

Sis. Kathleen Snyder, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Ted Snyder, R. 1, Bernville, Pennsylvania and Bro. Lee Burkholder, son of Bro. and Sis. Jay Burkholder, R. 5, Manheim, Pennsylvania were united in marriage, May 6, 1978 at the Frystown Dunkard Brethren Church. The ceremony was performed by Elder Allen Eberly after a sermon by Bro. David Kegerreis. The couple will reside at 302 E. High Street, Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545.

NOECKER - MARKS

Sis. Wanda Noecker, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Daniel Noecker, R. 1, Bethel, Pennsylvania and Bro. Marvin Marks, son of Sis. Dorothy Marks and the late Melvin Marks, R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania were united in marriage, May 13, 1978 at the Frystown Dunkard Brethren Church. The ceremony was performed by Elder David Ebling after a sermon by Elder Laverne Keeney. The couple will reside along R. 1, Bethel, Pennsylvania 19507.

NEWS ITEMS**SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA**

We were privileged to enjoy another Lovefeast meeting, May 28. The weather was beautiful and the Christian fellowship much enjoyed. The messages of the day were inspiring. Visiting ministers during the day were: Joshua Rice, Howard Surbey, Frank Shaffer, Laverne Keeney, Virgil Leatherman and James Kegerreis, with Bro. Shaffer officiating in the evening.

From July 23 to August 6 everyone is invited to a two week revival with us. The evangelist will be Bro. Allen Eberly from the Lititz Congregation. Pray for these meetings which will start at 7:30 each evening.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Swallow Falls, Maryland Congregation is planning a revival August 20 to August 27 each evening 7:30 and Sunday mornings Bible Study 10 A.M., worship at 11 o'clock.

Bro. Robert Carpenter of Peru, Indiana has consented to be our evangelist.

Lovefeast service August 26 beginning at 2:30 P.M. Come and enjoy these services with us, and remember Bro. Carpenter and the Swallow Falls Church in prayer. We thank you.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

JONATHAN TRUSTED GOD!

I Samuel 14:1-23

Jonathan was a man who trusted God. He was the son of Saul, the king of Israel. Jonathan decided to attack a garrison of the Philistines with only the man who carried his weapons to help him. A garrison is a fortress occupied by a number of men. When the Philistines had control of Israel, they occupied many of these garrisons to police the people and to keep order over Israel. Jonathan had faith that God would give him a sign by which he might attack this garrison of Philistines.

Jonathan told his servant they would let the Philistines know when they got close to them. If the Philistines of the garrison would say, "Wait till we come to you," they would stand still but if they would say, "Come up to us," then they would attack. This was to be a sign that the Lord would deliver the garrison unto them. When Jonathan revealed himself to the Philistines, they called out, "Come up to us and we will show you a thing." We don't know just what the Philistines wanted to show Jonathan but they were proud of their defensive position and had no idea that two men would have the nerve to attack them. As soon as Jonathan had climbed up to where the Philistines were, he started to fight them. His armour-bearer came behind and killed the ones Jonathan had knocked down. After they had slain about twenty men, the Philistines started to run. The Lord caused an earthquake to shake the ground. The Philistines got so excited and mixed up, they started to kill one another. When the watchmen of Saul saw what was happening to the great army of the Philistines, he assembled the men of Israel together and went after them. The men who had been taken captive by the Philistines also turned against them, thus the Lord saved Israel that day.

Because Jonathan had faith in God, he and his servant were able to start a battle which ended in confusion and defeat for the Philistines and in a great victory for Israel. Today the people of God do not have to kill their enemies like they did when Saul and Jonathan were alive. We do have to fight the good fight of faith and use the Word of God for a sword. (Eph. 6:17). We can tell others about Jesus, His commandments and His promises.

Brother Rudy Cover

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BIBLE MONITOR

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AUGUST 15, 1978

NO. 15¹⁶

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

DRIFTING

Drifting carelessly with the tide,
Drifting over the waters wide,
With no Captain your course to guide,
Drifting over life's sea.

Drifting almost upon the bar,
Losing sight of the Beacon Star;
From the haven of joy afar,
Drifting over life's sea.

Drifting on, with no shore in view,
Think not skies will be always blue;
Storm and shipwreck will come to you,
Drifting over life's sea.

Drift no longer! let Jesus save,
Let Him guide you across the wave,
Lest you sink in a sinner's grave,
Drifting over life's sea.

— E. E. Hewitt

DECEPTION

Today, the government has forfeited the confidence of many of the nation's citizens. Any statement issued by the government is greeted with disbelief or skepticism. Why don't the people believe their own government? There have been so many cover-ups, lies and half-truths issued by the government that the people have become very skeptical. Deception destroys confidence.

Even worse than the political deceptions of the government are the Spiritual deceptions of the Devil. The alarming thing about his deceptions is that people in general continue to believe him. Although he has been proven to be a liar and the father of the lie, people continue to listen to him. Why should this be? If a man is proven a liar in our material dealings, confidence is lost in him. He may even end up in prison if his untruthfulness becomes too great. But Satan still has the confidence of the people. They still follow him, even to their souls' eternal destruction.

He has the ability to come to men in the garb of an angel of light. He does not openly appear as the terrible, fearsome, ugly creature he is sometimes pictured. He comes in a way that hides his true purpose and profession. Often he does not even appear himself, but uses others as his ministers of light. He uses these deceived beings to deceive even more.

Satan began his earthly career of deception in the Garden of Eden. It would seem that in the pleasant and fruitful conditions that prevailed there, that there would be no opportunity for a deceiver to work. What more could Adam and Eve possibly want? One tree out of the whole forest of trees that made up the Garden of Eden had

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been forbidden to them. Satan used that one condition to bring death, physically and Spiritually upon mankind. We are still suffering from the sin of our original foreparents. Eve could call to mind the prohibition of God concerning that one fruit but Satan quickly overcame her qualms with his deceptiveness. While being very subtle in his encouragement of Eve's disobedience, he was in reality calling God a liar and making His Word of none effect.

Satan has not changed. He still deceives people into thinking that they can trifle with God's Word and His Plan of Salvation. The results are just as disastrous today as in the dawning age of this world. He has deceived mankind into believing that sincerity is the only condition upon eternal life. The prevailing wisdom of the religious world is that the content of our belief is unimportant as long as we adhere to it sincerely. Satan deceives men into forgetting that the sins of each one are responsible for the death of Jesus on the Cross. We are as responsible as the ancients for His sin-burdened death.

The deception that Satan has spread in the world should be expected. He is simply keeping those who follow him deceived so they will continue to follow. But unfortunately he has spread his deception in the Church as well. The Church, the Body of Christ, would be expected to listen to only what was truth and of Spiritual value, but since She is composed of imperfect people, Satan has an opening for his mischief. He has spread many false teachings and practices in the Church.

The teaching of "faith only" as the complete plan of salvation along with "eternal security" has grown within the professing Church to the extent that God's Plan of Salvation — Faith, Repentance, Baptism and holy living have about been forgotten. The devil has even been busy in the Plain Churches bringing in deceptive teachings undermining the plain, simple, Christian life taught by our ancestors as needful to carry out the teachings of the Bible. It is his deception that causes us to speak disparagingly of our doctrines and practices as being only our peculiar beliefs. By this deception he can cause the Plain People to lose respect for their doctrines and to seek union with other groups. Because of Satan's deception it becomes easy to be more tolerant of unholy living, to be less peculiar, to be like those around us, but God's people are to be a peculiar people no matter what the world's opinion may be. We must remember that the world around us is a world living under the deception of Satan. We must not court the approval or applause of the deceived but we must rather prove ourselves to be the faithful children of God.

Satan may appear as an angel of light but appearances are

deceptive. He is still the father of lies. He is still trying both in and out of the Church to deceive precious souls into following him. Do not be one of his victims. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

THE SERPENT BEGUILLED EVE

We read in Genesis 3:13, "And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me and I did eat."

Bible students are familiar with the lesson concerning Adam and Eve eating of the fruit which God commanded them not to eat. Eve listened to Satan's subtlety. She ate. Then she gave to Adam and he did eat. While this took place many, many centuries ago, we see it repeated in our day. Satan beguiling the woman and the woman tempting and seducing the man.

The destiny and strength of our nation lies, not in our nation's Capitol, but in the strength, purity and devoutness of our womankind. Satan's aim and desire is to corrupt woman and ruin the race. A nation rises or falls with the virtue of its women. The women of our nation, as well as other nations, are running to harlotry. Movie, television and stage stars set the present day standard. That standard is very low, very lewd and very immoral. The mass of people follow these worldly examples in preference to following the teachings in God's Word. The degeneracy of the women of the world marks the falling of this nation. In the beginning, sin entered the world through the woman. Today, as then, she seems bent on finishing this in these very latter days.

Before going further, I give all credit due to the many clean, loyal, and fine Christian women who are obeying God's Word in their lives. Those who dress in modest attire, who love their husbands and children, who are Christian, Bible-obeying homemakers are a part of the salt of the earth. God bless them!

Comparatively few women today are staying in the place where God originally put them. It is exceedingly dangerous for a woman to get out of her orbit. God never created woman to rule man. His entire Word is against it. He never sanctioned so-called women's lib. God's Word says women are to be keepers at home. They are not to run for high office, for the presidency, for chairman of the board, and so forth. Because of this broken law, the curse of God is on the home, the church, society and the nation. Many women are striving for mastery over men, when God's Word states that they shall be in subjection to men.

As a consequence of our present day system, it is evident that by disobeying God's Word, Eve is listeing to the voice of the serpent again. Home, husband and family mean nothing to many a modern day woman. She breaks up her own home and often breaks up the home of others. Her very attitude and behavior, her dress, her artificial make-up, her immorality is in conflict with God. His word teaches that a woman is to be modestly clothed.

In Titus 2: part of verse 4 and 5, we are taught that the young women are to be sober, to love their husbands, and children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed. God has never rescinded this obligation which he placed women under. He has never changed His order!

The early Church is a pattern for the Church of our day. Female Bishops, Priests and Ministers are an anomaly. Yet, more and more, they are being installed into these offices. I Tim. 3:2, "A bishop must be the HUSBAND of one WIFE." I Tim. 3:12, "Let the deacons be the HUSBANDS of one WIFE." This is God's authority for the office and He does not mention women are qualified for it. Husbands are, but not wives. Males are qualified but not females.

Women have their true place in the Church. They have their place in the Lord's work. They are sorely needed in the Church and there is a great vacancy when their pews are empty. To rightly fill their place in the Church and in the order God placed them, they should maintain their modesty and stay in their true sphere. We should thank God for the decent women in the Church and in America. We thank our Heavenly Father that not ALL women are Jezebels. We should thank God for the Sisters of our Church who are striving to rightly fill their God-given responsibility. What a contrast in every way between a true Sister in the Church and a woman of the world!

The modern woman with her very abbreviated attire, bobbed hair, paint and rouge is an insult to her Maker. The Bible teaches that a woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, for all who do so are an abomination unto the Lord. Not judging, but from appearance, the modern woman seems to be trying God to see just how far she can go.

God's commandment for women is that they "Adorn themselves in modest apparel." I Tim. 2:9. More shameful things are worn on the streets today by women, than they would have worn years ago in the privacy of their own home. They have lost all sense of virtue. In their brazenness, boldness and nakedness, they are destroying the morality of the human race. Wearing so little clothing, worldly women outrage all decency. Mothers and even grandmothers have lost their shame. They know that their bodies are not properly

covered. From a distance, you can hardly tell if the female is a daughter, a mother or grandmother. And often from their dress and hair style you cannot tell them from a man. Modern women have lost their sense of modesty.

Elderly women should set the standard for the younger and be their example. Too often it is a very poor example. What a poor example is a cursing, smoking, drinking, gambling, nearly nude, painted, bobbed-haired mother. She truly will have to give a very strict account to God, on that GREAT DAY.

A few years ago, women, as we now see them on the streets, would have been arrested for indecent exposure. The morals of Sodom are becoming those of America. Satan has succeeded in commercializing his plot to corrupt women. Semi-naked women are exploited to draw trade. Many businesses have commercialized the nudity of women in their advertising. Vile pictures, that a few years ago were to be seen only in brothels and beer parlors, are now openly flaunted on public billboards. The daily press carries pages of naked and sensual women and suggestive movie scenes, exploiting the serpent's beguiling enticement. The front cover of many magazines depict the same type of scenes, appealing to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life.

Today few public events are sponsored, unless beives of nearly nude women are thrust into the vulgar foreground. Band majorettes in our high schools are a disgrace to the school and to their parents. They are a disgrace to God who created them. Even little girls, whom mothers should have control over, are turned out on the streets almost naked. The serpent is again tempting the woman and the man. As a result, the very foundation on our Christian civilization is being undermined.

The Good Word says, "But if a woman have long hair it is a glory to her . . ." I Cor. 11:15. If long hair is a woman's glory, short hair must be her shame. Mary wiped Jesus' feet with her long hair. What a beautiful, modest act! How many women today could wipe Jesus' feet with their hair? A bobbed-haired woman disqualifies herself in God's sight. She remains a type of a fallen church, with all glory gone. Long hair is the Scriptural badge of virtuous womanhood.

Woman's fall has wrecked civilization in the past. If continued, it will wreck America, also. If God's Word is true, AND IT IS, then we have nothing left to look for but God's fiery judgment.

There is a way out of America's present dilemma, but we must pay the price. It is given in II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

"FOR GOD SO LOVED"

"For God so loved . . ." - with more than just an ordinary love. Whom did He love? He so loved ME! How do I know that He loved me? "For God so loved the world . . ." - that's you and me - "that He gave . . ." God is still giving mercy, grace, peace of mind; He gives because He loves. What else did He give? "He gave His only begotten Son." Through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, God gave us all that He had to give, the best that He had to give.

What good could giving His Son do for us? "That whosoever . . ." - that's you and me again - "believeth in Him should not perish . . ." Not perish? Why would we perish without Christ? Is this "not perishing" just barely living, barely existing? No. Christ makes the difference between perishing (eternal death), and everlasting life. If we do not believe and continue in sin, we will perish, but if we believe, His gives us life. If we believe, He gives grace and strength each day and our hearts will be blessed by His love. That's the good, Christ can do for us.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16-17.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." I John 3:1a. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." I John 5:11.

God did not send His Son to condemn us, but rather to save us. Christ is the only way of salvation, the only one who could possibly reconcile us to God. God's love is a very special love. It caused Him to send His only Son down here to save us. It was man who turned his back on God, yet it was God who took steps to reconcile man to Himself. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ . . ." Eph. 2:4-5. God so loved us that He didn't wait for us to "improve" first. He provided for our salvation just when we needed it most.

When you have truly experienced God's love, you will know it and so will others. Christ is the manifestation of God's love and when you receive Him into your heart, His transforming power will be evident in your life. You won't be like you used to be. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. One of the most noticeable changes will be the love He gives you for others.

Christ's love is not a self-centered love and yours won't be either. You will find yourself loving and giving when it's reasonable, and many times when it's unreasonable. As God so loved, so will He enable you to love others.

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." I John 4:16. "Love" and "God" go together. When you dwell in something, you are surrounded by it. It will have a profound effect on your life. Literally, you are surrounded by God's love when you receive Christ, and the effect it has is a very outstanding one. The longer you dwell in God's love, the more noticeable the effect. You will know that "God so loved" even you.

"He that spareth not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8:32. "For God so loved that He gave," and His giving didn't stop with Jesus and salvation. If God considered it good to give us His Son, shall He not also give us the lesser things? He is aware of our needs and we know He is able to provide. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19. This tells us He will provide, and this is because He so loved us.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8. Not only does He give us grace so we can be saved, He also gives us the gift of faith to receive salvation. He so loved us that He even gives to us the thing which it takes to please Him - our faith. Is it any wonder that Paul said "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."?

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23. For God so loved that He decided to let us die? No! He so loved us that He wanted us to live. Through Christ, He made life possible. It is a definite promise to those who believe. "And this is the promise that he hath promised us even eternal life." I John 2:25. For God so loved even you; He so loved even me. God's love is unlimited; He loves without partiality, no matter how undeserving we are. Will you accept His love now and be made alive in Christ?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554



If we do not abide in Him, it is not that we bear less fruit or inferior fruit, but apart from Him we can do nothing. It is either good fruit — much and abiding, in which God is greatly glorified and man greatly benefited — or not fruit at all.

— J. Hudson Taylor
Selected Sis. Mildred Skiles

DECISIONS

This is a sermon preached by Bro. Henry Walker at the Pleasant Home Church in Ceres, California.

"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:14-15.

Decisions! We all make decisions every day of our lives. Notice the infant, when he is learning to get around on his own. He reaches out to touch a forbidden object. He looks at his parents and hesitates. He is making a decision. Shall I touch it or shall I not? Then, when he is older, in his teens, the first car: What kind shall I get? Do I want a souped-up hot rod that wastes gas, or do I want one that will be economical on fuel, so that I can go more places on the money I have to spend?

What kind of an occupation do I want? Must I have more schooling? Marriage — Who shall I choose for my life partner? And when the choice is made — Then, where shall we live? What kind of a home will we have?

The most important decision of all — Will we let Jesus Christ rule our home? Will our children see this Spirit in our living? Or will they see that we are too busy? Too busy to teach them the Right Way. Too busy to listen to them. Too busy! Till we hear, as the rich fool did, in Luke 12:20-21, "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

So we see, that death comes. That decision is made for us. We have no choice as to when, but our decision is to make a choice of which way we shall travel. This decision determines where we spend Eternity, whether in Heaven or Hell.

The broad way that leads to Hell and the narrow way that leads to Heaven do not run side by side. We can't straddle the fence by being on one way on Sunday and the other way the rest of the week. These ways run in opposite directions.

In Matt. 6:24, Christ said, "No man can serve two masters: For either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Make the right decision and know as the Apostle Paul wrote in

Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor death, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Elimalech and Naomi and their two sons moved to the land of Moab during a time of famine in Bethlehem-Judah. After a time the father died. The sons had married Moabite girls. Later the sons died also. Naomi was a widow, and now, she had lost her sons also. She made a decision to return to her own country, when she heard that the famine was over. She told her daughters-in-law to return to their own families. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and returned, but Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Ruth 1:16. She had made a decision and would not change it.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1. Eph. 4:14, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Eph. 6:13, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Jesus said just three words in Luke 17:32, "Remember Lot's wife." Why? She was one of those who had made the wrong decision. When she looked back toward that wicked city, Sodom, where she had been living, she turned into a pillar of salt. Some others who had made wrong decisions were: Esau, when he sold his birthright and Jonah, when he took the ship to Tarshish.

Among those who made the right decisions were Noah. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Heb. 11:7. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, then to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Heb. 11:24-25. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Heb. 12:1.

What are some of these weights? Smoking — The Bible does not say specifically, "Thou shalt not smoke!" But how can we be an effective witness and defile the temple of God? I Cor. 3:16-17 tells

us, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

Drinking intoxicating beverages will also destroy our witness. What about the friends we choose? Will they help us along our Christian walk of life or will they pull us back into the way of sin? Long hair on our youth can also be a weight. And our dress — we decide what we shall wear. Will it follow the trend of the world or will it be modest apparel?

"To run with patience," what does it mean? Patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit. We must run wisely, with patience. It will take a life-time to reach our goal. We can all be winners in this race, as we look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Making the decision to serve the Lord is the greatest thing, in our life here on earth, that we can do. It will give us joy and happiness while here and eternal life with Jesus. Luke 12:8-9, "Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son or man also confess before the angels of God. But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God."

Our Saviour, too, made a decision. The Word says, He "fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." He willed to do the will of God. "Lord, I want to live closer to thee." Rev. 3:5, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Rev. 3:11-12, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." Rev. 3:21, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

Is the Lord speaking to your heart? What decisions will you make today?

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 El Pomar Ave., Waterford, Calif. 95386



It is not try, but trust.

It is not do, but done.

Our God has planned for us

Great victory through His Son.

CONTENTMENT

As the days come upon us, it seems that Godly contentment has left the scene. As a mother of four children, I feel a great responsibility in raising my children to learn to know the value of a dollar and to appreciate and treasure the gifts they receive. We seem to be getting off balance in our thinking when we purchase things of no Christian value. We can be ever so plain in our dress but still miss the blessing by fulfilling our own lustful desires and not calling upon God for our needs.

It seems the day of playing house and dolls and maybe in the sand with trucks and cars is in the past. Whatever the world has or whatever is on the market is what the children want. But we as Christian parents should stop and consider, is it for the best?

I feel as the Brother preached at General Conference about our purchases. Maybe if we would ask God if it was for the best or not, He would give us the answer. But because money is no problem today, we don't even ask God. We just buy it because we want it, not realizing that it could hinder our Christian walk of life.

We continue to teach our children to stay away from worldly amusements. But let us stop and consider. How far can we really go before we have sinful entertainment in our own backyards? Do you suppose the young Christ would have been riding cycles, automobiles and other sports vehicles?

It's a burden on my heart. I feel as Christian parents we ought to stop and consider, is it the appearance of evil? If God permits us to live to see the future, what will be the entertainment of our children's children?

Children no longer want to work. If we want them to grow up to be Godly mothers and fathers, they are going to have to be taught. It is not the buying or giving a child everything he wants, just because the neighbor boy has it, that really counts. There is a closeness of working together and doing things together as a family that I have found is of great value. Maybe planting and working in the garden or making a family project, letting each one take part.

It seems sometimes we live and buy as though we are going to be here forever. But as soon as sickness, accident, or bills come upon us we moan and groan, not realizing that maybe it is God trying to speak to us, to rid us of our sinful pleasures or habits.

What kind of an example are we living before our friends and neighbors by the possessions we have? Sometimes we become a little puffed up by all the things we own or maybe because money flows very easily with us. Beware! lest ye fall.

We know money cannot buy our way into Heaven but as we read

in the Bible, money can keep us out of Heaven if not used to the honor and glory of God. Let each one of us think seriously of what we have that would not be pleasing to Almighty God.

Might we all strive to receive that Godly contentment that can be attained if we give up our own stubborn will is our prayer.

I would like to conclude with this selected poem!

Children are life's greatest blessing
For they fashion golden years
And wherever there are children
There are far more smiles than tears.
Children paint the world with sunshine
Keeping faith forever high
Giving to the older people
Strength to do and will to try.
Children are aglow with dreaming,
Dreams that make a happy heart
Only pure things fill their thinking
Youthful thoughts make blues depart.
Children have wonderful spirit
That is very hard to dim,
Childish hearts are magic organs
Filled with hope up to the brim.
Without children life is dreary
Matters not how much you own
Those who are denied their blessing
Strangely, somehow, are alone.

In Christian Love,
Sister Wanda Hearn

R. 2, Reading, Pennsylvania 19605

NEWS ITEMS

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation plans to hold their revival Sunday, August 27 through Sunday, September 10. Elder Edward Johnson of Wauseon, Ohio, will be the evangelist.

A hearty invitation is extended to all, who can, to attend these meetings.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"A LITTLE HONEY"

I Samuel 14:24-45

When Jonathan and his armour-bearer, with God's help, had put the Philistines to flight, Saul was anxious to overtake the Philistines and kill them. He told the people that day, "Cursed be the man that eats any food till evening, that I may be avenged of mine enemies." So the men of Israel went after the Philistines on empty stomachs.

The land of Canaan was a land flowing with milk and honey. There must have been alot of bees in that land. When the army of Israel came to a wooded part of the country the bees had made so much honey that it was actually dripping off the trees onto the ground. Because Saul had charged the men with an oath not to eat till evening, no man would touch the honey — even though they weak from hunger. Jonathan had not heard what his father had said. He had been busy fighting the Philistines. When he saw the honey, he dipped his rod into a honey comb and ate of it. Jonathan was also tired but after he had eaten of the honey his strength returned and he felt strong again. One of the men told Jonathan what Saul had said. Jonathan replied, "My father has troubled the land and if you had eaten food today which the Philistines left behind, you would have had strength to overcome the Philistines with a much greater slaughter."

It is a serious thing to make an oath to God. God expects it to be carried out. When Saul enquired of the Lord if He would deliver the Philistines into his hand, God didn't answer. Saul decided someone must have broken the oath and eaten food. Saul asked the Lord to decide who it was. They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonathan. Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you did?" Jonathan said, "I did but take a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand. Shall I die for this?" Saul answered, "God do so and more also: for you shall surely die."

But the people stood up for Jonathan and said, "Shall Jonathan die who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? As the Lord liveth there shall not an hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day." So the people rescued Jonathan.

Saul would have killed his son, for eating a little honey, when Jonathan was entirely innocent. Saul was at fault for having asked such a thing of his people. We should always be careful that what we promise is God's will.

Brother Rudy Cover

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview Congregation is looking forward to a one week revival meeting this fall. Our Evangelist will be Elder Jacob Ness of York, Pennsylvania. These meetings will be from August 27 through September 3.

We will conclude our revival with all day services Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3. Our Lovefeast Service will be on Saturday evening at 7:30 P.M. We ask an interest in your prayers in behalf of these meetings.

We have been made to rejoice again, when a dear one was received into our fold by water baptism.

A welcome to all, who can, to come and worship with us.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, we plan to have a two week revival meeting, beginning September 4 and continuing through September 17. Bro. Fred Pifer of Dallas Center, Iowa will be the speaker.

Please pray for these meetings and all who can are welcome to come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR SEPTEMBER**

Sept. 3 — The New Commandment. John 13:18-38

Sept. 10 — "The Way, the Truth and the Life." John 14:1-14

Sept. 17 — "If ye love me, Keep my Commandments." John 14:15-31.

Sept. 24 — Abiding in Christ. John 15:1-8



When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of my sins within;
Upwards I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1978

COVENANTS

Memory Verse Deut. 7:9

Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Fri. 1 - Deut. 7:1-15

Sat. 2 - Deut. 7:16-26

Memory Verse, Deut. 29:9

Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.

Sun. 3 - Deut. 8:1-20

Mon. 4 - Deut. 9:1-15

Tues. 5 - Deut. 9:16-29

Wed. 6 - Deut. 10:1-22

Thurs. 7 - Deut. 17:1-20

Fri. 8 - Deut. 29:1-15

Sat. 9 - Deut. 29:16-29

Memory Verse, Deut. 31:20

For when I shall have brought them into the land which I sware unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they unto other gods, and seve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.

Sun. 10 - Deut. 31:1-15

Mon. 11 - Deut. 31:16-30

Tues. 12 - Deut. 33:1-29

Wed. 13 - Jos. 3:1-17

Thur. 14 - Jos. 4:1-24

Fri. 15 - Jos. 6:1-27

Sat. 16 - Jos. 7:1-26

Memory Verse, Jos. 23:16

When ye have transgressed the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

Sun. 17 - Jos. 8:1-17

Mon. 18 - Jos. 8:18-35

Tues. 19 - Jos. 23:1-16

Wed. 20 - Jos. 24:1-18

Thur. 21 - Jos. 24:19-33

Fri. 22 - Jud. 2:1-23

Sat. 23 - I Sam. 4:1-22

Memory Verse, I Sam. 18:3

Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as much as his own soul.

Sun. 24 - I Sam. 11:1-15

Mon. 25 - I Sam. 18:1-16

Tues. 26 - I Sam. 18:17-30

Wed. 27 - I Sam. 20:1-23

Thur. 28 - I Sam. 20:24-42

Fri. 29 - I Sam. 23:1-15

Sat. 30 - I Sam. 23:16-29

Lester Fisher
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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

— Edward Mote

GOD'S BROAD LOVE AND NARROW WAY

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:19-20.

Within these two verses, we are told what God has done for us and what God expects of us. In considering the attributes of God, we often place at the forefront, Love. The human mind is incapable of realizing the depth or breadth of God's love or of writing of it. God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His Only Begotten Son. But His love did not stop with this gift. He also sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within each believer.

While we promote God's attribute of Love, we must remember that He also is Just. Because He is Holy, every sin is an abomination to Him. He can not stand sin. In His justness He has decreed a penalty for sin — death. This was first implemented in the Garden of Eden and has been the bane of mankind since. One of the truths of God's Word is that "... all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." All of us are included in this condemnation. A just God demands that the penalty, physically and Spiritually, be paid. Here is where the breadth of God's Love comes in. He did not cancel the penalty but He sent His Son to bear that penalty for you and me. His Love is so great that, if we accept the work accomplished by Jesus on the cross, we do not need to bear the penalty that rightfully belongs to us. There was never a possibility that our sinful bodies and minds could ever be good enough to stand before God uncondemned. Yet through the gift of Jesus, that

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is our position, however undeserved it is.

God will not allow His own to be without guidance and direction. He wants each to follow His will exactly, therefore He sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within the believer. From within the believer's heart, He can direct his activities and thoughts, if not quenched. This is another demonstration of God's broad love.

Paul makes the point that our human, frail bodies have been promoted to the position of a temple. In Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit dwelt only in the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part of the temple. Now, He dwells in the heart of each believer. So the body has become a holy temple. The Jews were very careful that nothing would desecrate or foul their temple of stone and wood. We need to be careful, we do not foul the present temple — our bodies. Because of the price God has paid to deal with our sins and because He has taken possession of our bodies by His Spirit, we no longer are our own. We belong to Him.

When a person purchases an item, it becomes his. He may use it pretty much to suit himself. God in the tremendous breadth of His love has purchased us. As the potter has power over the clay so God has power to shape us to His desired plan. The potter's clay is inanimate; it has no choice in how it will be finally shaped by the potter. We unlike the clay, have a power of choice. We have the potential for disobedience of our Potter. Even though God has paid so dearly for us, how often we choose to do contrary to His Will.

God has displayed how truly broad His love is by giving His Own Dear Son. He has displayed His broad love by making a very narrow way for us to travel as His children. The plan of salvation, drawn by a broad love, is narrow. There is only one way to come to God — Jesus. If there were many ways to come to God we might more easily be confused by the various ways and yet lose our way. But we have one way and one way only, because of God's love.

Because of His concern for us, He has given us a strict and narrow way to follow as His children. If He were to allow us a broad way we would be following the world's way that leads to destruction. The world follows a broad way of pleasure, self and sin but it is a way contrary to the broad love of God. The broad love of God brings a father's discipline upon His children. The lack of discipline within the home is a proof of the lack of love and so it would be in God's family.

Paul says both the body and Spirit of the Christian belong to God. It is not only man's inward being, his soul and spirit, that belong to God but the outward man as well. God has a narrow way

not only for the heart and mind but also for his outward appearance and actions. Man's dress and activities are under the dominion of God, therefore our temples should be made to please Him both inside and outside.

God's love is broad. Have you accepted it? God's way is narrow. Are you on it?

1978 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

The highlight of each year for many of our members is the time spent at the annual Conference. Again, we want to thank God for His protecting care in our travels and also that so many were willing to make the trip. The records show that 817 were fed Sunday noon, which is the largest number ever recorded. The total number of meals was 7,427. I am sure we all left Conference with a feeling that it was good for us to have been there. We were well cared for and the meals were outstanding. The weather was beautiful. Although God gave us one shower, there was no reason to complain.

There was a good attendance at the Saturday morning devotional service. Bro. Harley Rush led "He Lives" which brought us inspiration for the day. Bro. Dale Jamison expressed his thanks for the fellowship and the privileges that 1978 Conference would give us. Bro. Carl Broadwater read Ps. 9:1-7. We must praise God with ALL our hearts. Men on today's race tracks give their ALL. Do we give God our ALL in the race of life?

Saturday P.M.

Song Leader: Bro. Larry Andrews. Song, "Break Thou the Bread of Life."

Bro. Rudy Cover emphasized that some day Christ is coming for us.

Bro. Fred Pifer opened by reading Matt. 9:14-26. We must keep in touch. The woman only touched the hem of Christ's garment but His power healed her. Let us all keep in touch. May the Dunkard Brethren Church be in touch when Christ comes again. Bro. Pifer's closing prayer pleaded for God's guidance throughout Conference in all the board meetings, official meetings and sermons.

First Speaker: Bro. Virgil Leatherman. May this P.M. service glorify God. May the wonderful story be our aim throughout Conference.

Subject: The Power of the World.

II Tim. 4:10, "Demas hath forsaken me." Man is given a choice. The animals cannot choose. Adam and Eve made a choice to serve the god of this world. The world says it is getting better and better.

Adam was created perfect and so was the world with everything in it. Man has gone backward to an animal-like nature. Satan is god of this world, so there is no mercy in it. Mankind likes to be patted on the back. Demas loved the present world. We are all put here for a purpose. Oh, that ministers could preach the Word in such a way it would turn the world back to God. When we desire to do good, evil is present with us. Christ brought the Church into the world but Satan and man have put the world into the Church. Take a look around. Put on the whole armor of God. We can only overcome the world by knowing the Lord Jesus.

Song, "More Like the Master".

Second Speaker: Bro. Robert Carpenter. Text: Luke 13:6-9.

The fig tree represents ourselves planted in the Church. Christ is our owner and we have ministers as our caretakers. Does Christ find fruit in our lives? The caretaker gave the fig tree more care and fertilizer hoping to make it fruitful. The Jews had many things done for them and yet they criticized God. How many things has God done for us? The Jews rejected Christ, Ezk. 39:23-39, but God is mindful of the Jews yet today. Christ's ministry lasted for three years, then He gave His life for those who turned their backs on Him. The love chapter, I Cor. 13, emphasizes long suffering. Moses was a type of Christ. In Num. 14, the Jews threw up their hands and quit but Moses pleaded for them. In Matt. 18:24-35 we have an example of long suffering on our part.

Song, "I Love to Tell the Story."

Closing: Bro. David Kegerreis.

Why are we here? Are we reaching out for Christ? Maybe Christ has not returned because there are more who should be saved.

Saturday Evening

Song Leader: Bro. James Kegerreis.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Clyde Schultz. Heb. 10:1-39. Main thought in verse 39.

Speaker: Bro. Paul Reed. I Cor. 13:1-13; John 13:34-35; Rev. 2:1-4. Text: Rev. 2:4.

What was the first love of the Church at Ephesus? Have we lost our first love? Has our candle been removed and we are in darkness? Is the Church becoming colder and colder? A man was walking across a river that was frozen over. He struck a thin place and fell in. Nearby friends shoved a plank out to him but the end was icy and when he grasped it his hands would slip off. He shouted for them to send him the wooden end which they did and he was saved. Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus. He raised Lazarus from the dead because of His great love. What we do for

others we do for Christ. If we love the world and the things of the world the love of God is not in us. Prosperity is the means of taking people away from God. Bear ye one another's burdens. Matt. 27:55; John 2:19. We are justified by His resurrection. A home divided against itself shall fall. We are more concerned about ourselves than our brother.

Closing: Bro. George Replogle.

If we don't forgive, God will not forgive us. By their fruits ye shall know them.

Sunday Morning

Song Leader: Bro. Virgil Leatherman. Songs, "He Hideth My Soul" and "The Old Rugged Cross."

Speaker: Bro. Warren Smith. Heb. 6:1-20.

His little granddaughter throughout her first year of school talked much about passing to the second grade at the end of the year. She passed her examination and was promoted, her hopes were realized. Will our hopes be realized when we finish our life here on earth?

Sunday A.M.

Song Leader: Bro. Marty Meyers. Song, "Come and Dine."

Opening Devotions: Bro. David Ebling. II Pet. 1:1-21.

First Speaker: Bro. Howard Surbey. Subject: Borderline Believers. Gen. 12:1-3; Gen. 19:1-38.

Lot lost everything because of his choice. Borderline believers do not receive all of God's blessings. II Pet. 2:4-8. It is our fault if we do not receive our full reward.

The Amorites and Moabites gave the children of Israel trouble. They were descendants of Lot.

Second Speaker: Bro. Joseph Flora. Subject: Foundations.

The door of salvation is open. The devil is out to destroy the home, Church and school. Are you a wise masterbuilder? God's materials are faith, morality, honesty and integrity. We are aware that these materials are depreciating in value today. Homes are not destroyed by fire — only houses. The foundation of the home is love for God and love for one another. The greatest tool of the devil to destroy homes is television. Homes have slid off the foundation. Mutual love, headship and discipline have been destroyed. When we get off of the foundation which God has laid, we must deteriorate. There has been reported in our public schools nine thousand rapes, one hundred murders, seventy thousand assaults and \$500,000,000.00 loss by vandalism. Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 10. A man had a cattle shed. One corner of its foundation had crumbled and fallen out. He did not repair it and as time passed still more of the

foundation loosened and gave away. The building gradually became out of shape resulting in its complete ruin. Is the Church today standing on a crumbling foundation?

Closing: Bro. Harry Gunderman.

Ps. 90:10 tells us that our years may be fourscore. If God blesses us with even more what will our answer be when He calls us home?

Sunday P.M.

Song Leader: Bro. Leonard Wertz. Songs, "Kneel at the Cross" and "There is Power in the Blood."

Opening Devotions: Bro. William Carpenter. Rom. 10.

The longing of Paul for his people. They had a zeal but trusted in their own strength. Believe with thine heart and confess with thy mouth. Rom. 10:10.

First Speaker: Bro. Melvin Roesch. Subject: The Christian Walk of Life. Text: Jer. 2:11.

If we didn't have the promises of God we would have nothing to stand on. Jer. 6:16-17; Acts 15:18-20. Do we walk in real love or is it feigned love? Is the Church lukewarm? Has she lost her power? Let's pray that she may be unspotted from the world. A lady asked for membership in a Church stating that she liked to dance, play cards and go to the movies. The minister replied, "Oh, come on in, that will be all right." Abraham was willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice in obedience to God's command and we must be willing to give up the things of the world in order to please God. Col. 3 tells us how to live that we may appear with Christ in glory when He comes.

Second Speaker: Bro. James Kegerreis. Subject: Our Spiritual Habitation. Text: Heb. 12:18-23; Heb. 6:1-3.

Let us go on to perfection. We eat to feed the natural body and we must feed the spiritual body from God's Word. I John 3:9; Rom. 7:18-20.

Closing: Bro. Ray Reed.

This should be a time of soul searching. May God have His way in the Church and that starts with ME. If we laid up our treasures in Heaven instead of here on earth our eternal destiny would be secure. Rom. 12:1-6.

Sunday Evening

Song Leader: Bro. Tom St. John.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Dennis St. John. II Kings 22:3-13.

We need to find the Book then we must study it. We want a Church that is alive and then the Word will be a light unto our path.

First Speaker: Bro. Edward Johnson. Acts 2 and 6.

Jesus is coming for His Bride, not to seek the lost. How about

our acquaintance with the Holy Ghost? If Christ dwells in our heart, the Holy Ghost does too. When the Holy Ghost comes in, He controls our life. Peter says repent and be baptized to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Stephen was full of the Holy Ghost. Jesus also was, when He went up into the mountain to be tempted. Acts 7:54-60. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind. Clean up the livingroom for the Holy Ghost. How about our attic? What's stored up there? Help ME to clean up my attic and get all the trash out. Fill your mind with God's Word. If we store away things not acceptable unto God we need to clear out the trash. When we open the doors of our hearts and nothing comes out but the Holy Ghost then our attic is clean.

Song, "The Comforter has Come."

Second Speaker: Bro. Dean St. John.

Do we have a concern for our young people. Instill into their minds the unadulterated truth of God. Every Minister and Elder should be interested in our young people. We have much junk food today. Don't feed them the junk food of the world. Are you interested in their spiritual life? You can discipline your children and still love them. The young folks are looking for stability in their parents. If our young folks go astray let's look at the home. We blame the preacher when the lack is really in the home. Acts 2:37-40. Text: Verse 40. Don't have fellowship with the world there is too much sin out there. Have no fellowship with this untoward generation, one that is pulling our young people down. Flee fornication. Free love leads to the downward road. This generation is pleasure mad. The line between the world and the Church is getting thinner. Good, sound home living is being lost. Church life is a sample of our home life. There is no place in our boy's and girl's lives for sowing wild oats. Remember thy creator in the days of thy youth. Ecc. 12:1. "Fear God and keep His commandments." May you be an overcomer.

Closing: Bro. Frank Shaffer.



SEVEN PROBLEMS OF THE CHURCH

1. Unbended Knee
2. Unread Book
3. Unattended Church
4. Unpaid Tithes
5. Unrealized Cross
6. Unpassionate Heart
7. Unconcerned for Lost Souls

— Copied — Sis. Mildred Skiles

Monday Morning

Song Leader: Bro. Jason Reed. Song, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Birds fill the place God has given them, they sing as soon as they are awake. God gives us beautiful mornings with the signs of His greatness on all sides. Ps. 55. The closer we live to God the harder Satan works to pull us down, not as an enemy but as a friend. As the wash water cleanses the clothes so a God given sermon should cleanse our lives.

Monday A.M.

Song Leader: Bro. John Meyers. Song, "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

Opening Devotions: Bro. Carl Broadwater. Phil. 2:1-11.

Every tongue shall confess Christ.

Bible Study: Philemon. Teacher: Bro. Rick St. John.

Christ took all our account and put it on His own. Onesimus found what Christ can do for us when we sin and then come to Him.

Speaker: Bro. Milton Cook. Subject: Wrestling the Scriptures. Text: II Pet. 3:9-18. Text verse: 16.

Life is a continual, shifting scene. We have a God whom we can trust, One who never changes and is longsuffering. He has not given us a goal and not told us how to achieve it. He has given us a road map to the plan of salvation. Do we try to make evil good and good evil? What is the most abused scripture? Dressing in modest apparel, lack of apparel, command to cover the head, divorce and remarriage, washing feet, the Lord's supper, Communion, baptism? Parental delinquency brings juvenile delinquency. We can wrest the scriptures by not living a true life. There is a penalty for breaking the Word of God. Let us grow in the grace of our Lord.

Closing: Bro. Fred Pifer.

Jacob wrestled with the angel. A wrestler is a loser. To be a winner we must surrender our all to Christ.

Monday P.M.

Song Leader: Bro. Russel Berkenstock. Songs, "He Hideth My Soul" and "Trust and Obey."

Opening Devotions: Bro. David Kegerreis.

God's water satisfies our spiritual thirst.

First Speaker: Bro. Eldon Mallow. Subject: Looking Back. Luke 9:51-62. Text: Verse 62.

Keep our eyes on Jesus and don't look back. A farmer can only plow a straight furrow by looking straight ahead. Deut. 5:32; Ps. 78:10-11; Ps. 78:41-58; I Kings 11:3-8. Solomon looked back. Gal. 1:6. Watch our step from day to day.

Second Speaker: Bro. Rudy Cover. Subject: I Found Jesus. Text: John 4:28-29.

A Samaritan was a mixture of many nations and was not liked by the Jews. The Samaritan woman at the well was so amazed to have a Jew willing to talk to her. When she realized that she had found Jesus, she fled to her home leaving her waterpot behind. Are we willing to leave all for Jesus? Having found Him, do we realize that we have found eternal life? Paul was rich at one time but left all for Jesus. The Samaritan woman went back to her people with the simple command, "Come and see, I have found Jesus." Matt. 28:19-20. The Samaritan woman and the one leper who turned back with thanks, both fulfilled Christ's command. Are we filled with the same enthusiasm and willing to tell others the story of Christ?

Closing: Bro. Dennis St. John.

We have imitation Christs and false religions. The Jews complained that all they had was manna but if we have the real manna, it is all we need.

Monday Evening

Song Leader: Bro. Ezra Berry.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Emery Wertz. Gen. 1:31.

Man is weak, Satan deceives and man falls. May we always be faithful to God.

Song, "The Solid Rock."

First Speaker: Bro. Harley Flory. Text: Matt. 25:41-46.

There will be those on the left hand that expected to be on the right hand in the judgement day. Good men doing nothing is the thing that helps Satan. A little boy had no shoes, no good clothes and no food. God prompted someone to help but he forgot. Grandma and little Mary had no food. Grandma had a grindstone which a man came by and wanted to purchase. Grandma was willing to sell and the stone became bread. God provided. The cow in a pasture surrounded by a stone fence could only see out by looking over. When we can't see through problems let us look up. God will provide. Gal. 6:1-10. Christians ought to be the happiest people on earth because we have so much. Our patience is so quickly exhausted. In due season we shall reap if we faint not. Everyone at this Conference is more obligated to do good than before we came. The woman who cared for five typhoid-fever patients in one home when everyone else was afraid was protected by God and no harm came to her. Her effort of help did more for God's cause than all the minister's sermons. May we find our place and do what God calls us to do.

Second Speaker: Bro. Charles Leatherman. Subject: The Pleasures of Sin for a Season.

Moses' choice was to suffer affliction with the people of God for a season rather than to have the pleasures of King Pharaoh's palace. Let us not be lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God. II Sam. 11 and 12 gives us the story of David's mistake when he chose the pleasures of this world and God's punishment.

Closing: Bro. Paul Blocher.

Tuesday Morning

Song Leader: Bro. Clifford St. John.

Speaker: Bro. Melvin Roesch. Job 28:7-8; Ps. 91:1.

Under the wings of the Almighty there is safety just as baby chicks find safety under the mother hen's wings. Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. We can dwell in Beulah land but we are not satisfied.

Tuesday A.M.

Song Leader: Bro. John Meyers. Song, "God Leads Us Along."

Opening Devotions: Bro. Milton Cook.

It is cool on the outside, but we can be warm on the inside. I John 3:1-2. What manner of love? So great God gave His only Son. So great Christ gave His life. We enjoy reunions in the natural life. Conference is God's reunion in this world.

Bible Study: Jude. Teacher: Bro. George Throne.

Mercy, peace and love are multiplied not subtracted when we serve God. Jude says we should earnestly contend for the faith. When we must meet the standards, God does the sanctifying. Those who have followed the call of the world are spots at God's feasts. Some spots are black and some are grey but all are condemned. Let's give glory and majesty to Him who is able to keep us from falling.

Speaker: Bro. David Kegerreis. Subject: Time. Text: Eccles. 3.

We gain what we want in this world but does it pay? Can you imagine a world without time? Seasons are time. We are one year older and one year nearer eternity than at last year's Conference. We are all subjects of time today so let's make a right use of our time. Eccles. 12:1. A time to keep silent and a time to speak. Silence is golden. God has given us time, let us use it wisely. Gal. 6:9. The time is right, today, to start serving God. We presume on time by putting things off. If we don't use time wisely it is our own fault. Rom. 13:11. We need to be careful. Matt. 16:19. If the outside is corrupt the inside will be too. May we maintain the simplicity of the Church. Let's keep our mind on Jesus.

Closing: Bro. Carl Broadwater.

Will we rob God of His time?

Tuesday P.M.

Song Leader: Bro. Marty Meyers. Song, "The Haven of Rest."

Opening Devotions: Bro. Rudy Cover. Jonah 3.

The people of Nineveh repented, fasted and covered themselves with sackcloth and ashes. God heard their cry.

First Speaker: Bro. Fred Pifer. Subject: The Babylonish Garment. Text: Joshua 7:1-26. The theme of this Conference has been getting the world out of the Church. There are those who desire to be in the Church and yet live like Achan. There is no room in the Church for the Babylonish garment. It is not what God has made but how man has misused His works. Achan saw and then coveted. We can't play harlot to the world and yet be the Bride of Christ. Without the wedding garment the wedding guest was destroyed. We must get Babylon out of our hearts if we want to get Babylon out of the Church. There is no shame in Babylon today. Babylon opened one button on the shirt at a time. Plain and simple has gone out. Things of the world and things of Satan must have no room in our tent. May our hearts be old fashioned. How consistent are our lives? Do we want Christian schools and yet have television in our homes? Eph. 6:10-18. The wedding garment of the Lord should be our desire.

Second Speaker: Bro. David Skiles. Job 42:1-6; Micah 1:1.

We have all heard the Word. What is our solution of it? We can preach from now to eternity and unless people can see God in our lives it will do no GOOD. We must take a long hard look at our own lives. Do we need spiritual eye glasses? Heb. 11 is the faith chapter. If we are living in spiritual darkness, leaving the situation alone will not solve the problem. Everyone can lead their children to Christ. We can all be captive audiences to Satan. Let us examine our books, music and magazines, also our life style. Ps. 142:4. I need a greater burden of prayer. Do you talk to Him daily? Give the best to God, the first fruits and fatlings. Job 42:10. Job had twice as much after his loss as before. God rewarded his obedience. Let us get a vision of love, discipline and forgiveness. Brush the cobwebs out. Phil. 4:13-18. Grandpa had described Heaven in all its glory so well to his seven year old grandson that after he died his grandson wanted to go join him. We have your viewpoint, my viewpoint and God's viewpoint but God has all the facts.

Closing: Bro. Dennis St. John.

We need spiritual discernment and when we get the principles of the Bible we will need less polity book. There are no loop holes in the Bible though we may try to find them in the tax laws and the polity book.

Tuesday Evening

Song Leader: Bro. Merle Swihart.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Howard Myers. Rev. 3:14-21.

I will spue thee out of my mouth because thou art neither hot nor cold. We demand preaching and singing to please us. Sin is sin and what was sin years ago is still sin today. What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

Speaker: Bro. Harley Rush. Subject: Missions.

We are here to uphold God's principles. Saturday evening we were told we must have love. Sunday we were told of Borderline Christians. We celebrated the fiftieth year of the Dunkard Brethren Church in 1976. We must stand unitedly together if we support the Church. We must live our lives so the world will know we are following Jesus. Acts 8:5-17. Are we as eager to hear the Word as we used to be? The day of miracles has not passed. Ps. 96:3; Matt. 19:19; Matt. 24:14. The end is near. Mark 16:15; Acts 16:9; Matt. 28:19; Luke 24:47; Acts 13:46-49. The Gentiles are grafted in. What a beautiful thought. Isa. 45:22. One godly mother had four boys for whom she prayed daily. They all became Christians and later all became ministers. What one godly mother can accomplish!

Closing: Bro. Warren Smith.

We are each one a missionary for our Church. Man has originated over one thousand different Churches in the world. Let's be sure of God's commands for His Church.

Wednesday Morning

Song Leader: Bro. David Skiles.

We have a name, Christians, meaning Christlike. Do we act like Christ?

Speaker: Bro. David Ebling. Matt. 9.

When our sins are under the blood we have a right to be happy. Matt. 7:50, "It is I be not afraid." John 14, the comfort chapter; John 15, the abiding chapter; John 16, I am not alone, the father is with me. Be of good cheer I have overcome the world. Thanks be to God who has given us the victory.

Business Session

Song Leader: Bro. Ezra Beery.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Harry Gunderman. Ps. 51:1-19. Verse 17 tells us what God requires.

Officers:

Moderator: Bro. James Kegerreis.

Reading Clerk: Bro. Joseph Flora.

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The Conference offering of \$1,992.47 was given to the Trustee Board. The Mission Board offering was \$1,619.68.

Since you have read these notes of General Conference, pick up your Bible, settle yourself in a comfortable chair and go over these notes again, reading each Bible reference as it appears. You will be surprised at the inspiration it will give you and Conference will be very real to you. May God use these notes to make the Church stronger.

Sister Ruth Drake
R. 3, Box 312, Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545

NEWS ITEMS

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the revival meetings at West Fulton will start September 18 and continue for two weeks. Bro. Fred Pifer of Adel, Iowa will be the speaker.

There will be a Harvest Meeting on the last Sunday of the meetings, October 1.

If you cannot attend these meetings, please pray for them.

Since our last report, a young man gave his heart to the Lord. May we all pray that he will live faithfully.

Sister Leola Beck, Cor.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

The Ridge Congregation enjoyed a one week series of meetings with Elder Eugene Kauffman as our evangelist. Bro. Kauffman's messages were directed at the problems that confront us today and they were very inspirational.

Our meetings began July 9 and closed Sunday noon, July 16. Lovefeast services were held Saturday, July 15, with Elder Howard Surbey officiating.

We wish to express our thanks to the ministering brethren for their help during our meetings. We would appreciate it very much to have any of the Brethren and Sisters come to any of our services.

Sister Irene Harris, Cor.



Faith in Christ makes the uplook good, the outlook high, the inlook favorable, and the future glorious.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

SAUL DISOBEYS GOD

I Samuel 15

Were you ever disobedient to your father or mother? I'm sure if you were, it was a disappointment to them. Disobedience to God is sin and to disobey father or mother is sin too. The Bible says, "Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

God told Saul, by the prophet Samuel, to go and fight the Amalekites. He was to utterly destroy every person and all their sheep, oxen, camels and asses. Nothing was to be left alive. The Amalekites had attacked Israel when they journeyed from Egypt and God had not forgotten. They were enemies to God's people and God could not tolerate them any more.

Saul and the army of Israel fought the Amalekites and destroyed all the people except King Agag. I suppose Saul thought it would be an honor for him to bring back the king alive. He also saved the best of the sheep, oxen, fatlings and lambs. Saul saved the best of all the animals and only destroyed the sick and weak.

God talked to Samuel and said, "It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and has not performed my commandments." When Samuel heard this he felt so bad that cried unto the Lord all night.

Samuel rose early in the morning and went to meet Saul at Gilgal. When Saul saw Samuel he said, "Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord." Then Samuel replied, "What means then this bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of them to sacrifice unto the Lord and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

Samuel told Saul that when God said to utterly destroy the Amalekites and fight against them till they were consumed, He meant just what He said. "Why haven't you obeyed the voice of the Lord?" Saul said to Samuel, "Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord and have brought back king Agag and utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen to sacrifice unto the Lord." Samuel said, "To obey is better than sacrifice and to harken unto God than the fat of rams." Then Saul said, "I have sinned." Samuel told Saul because he had rejected the word of the Lord that the Lord had rejected him from being king over Israel.

What a sad story this is! God wants us to obey Him completely, not just part way. Jesus said, "My words are Spirit and they are life." If we want to go to Heaven and have eternal life, we must be obedient to God's Holy Word.

Brother Rudy Cover

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Lester Fisher
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BIBLE MONITOR

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SEPTEMBER 15, 1978

NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

"BE NOT AFRAID"

When waves of trouble round me swell,
My soul is not dismayed;
I hear a voice I know full well—
" 'Tis I; be not afraid."

When black the threat'ning skies appear,
And storms my path invade,
Those accents tranquilize each fear—
" 'Tis I; be not afraid."

There is a gulf that must be crossed;
Saviour, be near to aid!
Whisper, when my frail bark is tossed—
" 'Tis I; be not afraid."

There is a dark and fearful vale,
Death hides within its shade;
O say, when flesh and heart shall fail—
" 'Tis I; be not afraid."

- Unknown

THE YOUNG BRETHREN

When we think of the leaders of the Church of ages past, we are apt to think of them as being old, white-haired men with long, white beards. Perhaps the term "Elder" heightens that picture. Often this is an inaccurate picture. Often the leaders of the past have been those who were relatively young, in their thirties, forties and sometimes even in their twenties.

The wisdom and counsel of the older ones, who have gained much experience, is very valuable. Often their words of caution and love prevent the Church from veering from the safe pathway. These counsellors have not suddenly grown wise at the age of retirement but have grown wise through the years of service for the Lord and His Church. They were the young leaders of a generation or two before.

It is often thought that a conservative, reformatory movement is the work of those who are old and set in their ways. The strengthening and re-establishment of the old ways is thought to be but a desire of the old for a return to the days and ways of their youth. But usually the younger ones lead such a reform.

Jesus Christ and His Apostles were young. The years of His earthly life were approximately thirty-three. The Apostles were His contemporaries. They had the vigor to travel and endure the hardness of their calling. Certainly there has never been a greater reform than the introduction of Christianity. It opposed the dead religion of the Pharisees, who had turned away from the Word of God. The Pharisees, although outwardly religious and seemingly ultra-conservative, were progressive for they had established their

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own teachings above God's Word. Jesus presented the Truth and called for men to live by that Truth through Him.

The religious world was in the midst of decay and corruptness in the early eighteenth century. The doctrines of the New Testament had been ignored or perverted and in general the lives of the people were morally very low. In the midst of this ungodly scene appeared one, who though young in years, was determined to re-establish the doctrines of the Bible and to improve the moral lives of the people. Alexander Mack was in his twenties during these years of searching for a Church that practiced the Bible's doctrines. When such a Church could not be found, he with seven others, after much Bible study, re-established primitive, Biblical Christianity. In 1708, he would have been twenty-nine years old.

Peter Becker would have been in his early thirties when he led the first band of Brethren to the New World in 1719. Such a journey was no small undertaking considering the many dangers of the lengthy sea voyage and the establishment of homes in a new and often hostile land. In a few years these pioneers with Bro. Becker as their leader organized first a Germantown and soon elsewhere in the areas where the members had settled and others had been evangelized.

Later in that century other young Brethren emerged as leaders. Alexander Mack, Jr. and Christopher Saur, Jr. were in their thirties when the leadership of the Germantown Church was thrust upon them. The pattern of younger Brethren coming to the forefront, especially in the wilderness areas of the West, continued in the nineteenth century. Peter Nead, Henry Kurtz, James Quinter, John Kline, George Wolfe, John Bowman and others were young men when called to the ministry. Thus they had many years to give to preaching the Gospel. Since most of them lived beyond "three score and ten", in their later years they may have resembled the picture we have in our minds of the Old Brethren. But their greatest work had been done when they had been younger.

When the time for another conservative reform arose in the 1920's, again the younger Brethren were in the forefront. It was not just those who were old, looking back, but the young who had the vigor and stamina to stand for those old ways. When the Word of God is ignored a stand is necessary or else the way will be lost. The Young Brethren have played an important part in seeing that the Word of God is not ignored.

Today there remains a place for the young Brethren and Sisters. They need to be preparing for the task that will be theirs when the older ones have passed from this world. It is never too early to determine to live a moral, Christian life. It is ever needful to know

and practice the doctrines and ordinances of the Church. It is necessary that the Word of God be upheld. All in the Church, of all ages, must determine to continue in the old ways so another reformation will not be needed.

Young people are you as willing to stand for right as the young Brethren have been over the centuries?

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

What are the duties of a minister? There are many duties for a minister to perform, so let us examine a few of them.

A good place to start may be Paul's advice to Timothy. I Timothy 4:14-16, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." Let us pay special attention to the last part, "Thou shalt save them that hear thee." This may be the most important duty and should be the continual desire of a minister. Whether a minister speaks only to a small group or to a large congregation and holds many revivals he should try to uphold the Word of God and be sure they understand not only how to become a born-again Christian but how to maintain that position.

Many ministers preach in such a deteriorated way that the "flock" has no idea of how to go about the first and most important step, accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour. Many so-called ministers are not servants of God at all, but are tools of Satan used to lullaby as many people as possible along and keep them satisfied with the lost state they are in, while not even wondering if they are saved. I John 4:1-3, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." Satan will do his best to imitate God and deceive many. The majority of the people have no desire to try the spirits but go to church only because it is a social attraction. Such ministers as we have just mentioned will not enjoy their reward.

To maintain a flock in these last days may also prove to be a very hard thing to do. I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." We also know that in the last days there shall be a great falling away and that many shall depart from the faith. A minister should preach in meekness yet with authority. II Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." Also Hebrews 13:17 says of those that have the rule over the Church, "...For they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief..."

I would like to thank the ministers throughout the Brotherhood for unselfishly giving of your time, efforts, sleepless nights, and many hours of concerned prayer to continue to bring the Word of God to us. Also I wish to plead with you to uphold Christ and the Church and to preach of the strait and narrow pathway. It is indeed narrow and few there be that find it.

We, as Church members, have an obligation to hear the words of the minister and to do our best to take his thoughts and ideas into our hearts and lives and put them into practice. I know how easy it is to hear a sermon or part of a sermon that seems almost to be directed at me. I think of how I should improve or change on those certain points, but by the time church is out the message is forgotten. I wonder how often and how many of us fail miserably to utilize a message the minister has prayerfully spent much time in preparing and faithfully presenting, because it falls on un-listening ears of unconcerned individuals.

We seem to lack a desire to improve our spiritual lives and will be held accountable for it since we have the opportunity to hear the Word of God like no other people on earth. Luke 12:47-48, "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." Probably more has been given to the American people and to you and I, Brother and Sister in the Lord, than at any other time or place throughout history. It should scare most of us to think of how much the Lord is going to require of us. If we are not giving our all, we are certainly treading on treacherous ground.

Brother Roger Swihart
Quinter, Kansas 67752

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

GOD LOOKS UPON THE HEART

I SAMUEL 16:1-13

Would you like to be a king? Saul was King of Israel but he had disobeyed God. God said to Samuel, "I have rejected Saul from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and go to Jesse, the Bethlehemite for I have provided me a king among his sons." In that time they used horns from cows or rams instead of bottles like we have today. Jesse lived near Bethlehem and had eight sons.

Samuel was afraid that if Saul heard that he was going to anoint another man to be king, he would kill him. God told Samuel to take an heifer with him and say, "I am come to sacrifice to the Lord." God said, "Call Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice and you shall anoint him whom I name unto thee."

When Saul came to Bethlehem the elders of the city were afraid. They knew Samuel was a prophet of God and possibly thought Samuel might destroy their city. Samuel said he came to sacrifice unto the Lord and invited them to come to the sacrifice. He told them to sanctify themselves to the Lord. He sanctified Jesse and his sons and called them to the sacrifice. Sanctify means to set them apart for the Lord. In Moses' time, when they were sanctified, they had to wash their clothes. It also means to be clean.

When Jesse's sons came, Samuel saw Eliab, Jesse's oldest son. He was tall and a fine looking man. Samuel thought surely this must be the one God would choose. But the Lord said, "Look not on his countenance or how tall he is because I have refused him; the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, his second son, and Shammah, his third, but the Lord didn't choose them. Then Jesse had four more of his sons to pass before Samuel. Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all your children?" Jesse replied, "There is one, the youngest, out taking care of the sheep." Samuel said, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes."

When the youngest son came in he was different from the others. He was fair and red-headed. It was unusual among the Jews for a child to have a light complexion and it was considered very beautiful. The Lord said to Samuel, "Arise and anoint him; for this is he." Samuel took the horn of oil and poured it upon the head of David, that was his name. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.

God chose David because He knew that David loved the Lord. He was later called, "A man after God's own heart." Is your heart right with God?

Brother Rudy Cover

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GARDEN

You need space? In the Western States they measure ranches by sections; in the Central States farmers stake out their farms by acres; city lots are measured by the foot.

In things of the Spirit its the measure of faith. My faith is my spiritual real estate.

What shall I plant? I want a patch of love, joy, and peace. I think it would be attractive and perhaps sweet-scented. There must be a row of longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness. It would make hearty eating, and I think my guests would enjoy the flavor.

I think I must have an herb bed of meekness and temperance. These are difficult to germinate; but with the rain from Heaven falling softly, the sunshine of His Face, and refreshing dews, I'm sure the crop will prosper.

Shall I have a good, healthy stalk of patience in a handy corner where I can gather a nosegay at quick notice when I need it? Like a few fragments of sage when you need a pungent seasoning, patience will cover a scorched remark or even heal a shattered emotion.

There shall be a border of grace. Somewhere close by I will keep a quantity of salt, for my grace always must be seasoned with salt. Salt does not taste salty if used in proper proportion; it just brings out the best flavor of whatever it is used in. To bring out the best in those who visit my garden shall be my aim.

A plant that's hard to raise is forgiveness. The Heavenly Gardener can see to the germination of this plant, and perhaps I had better get some started plants from Him, for I'll need quite a row. He will also fertilize the plants, and I will plant them right next to my neighbor's boundary.

Forgiveness is a plant that usually grows very low, like mown grass. Its leaves sparkle and reflect the beauties of the neighbors' plots.

That is, until it gets to the back of the lot near where he heaps his garbage and junk. There it grows tall like Lombardy Poplars and thick like a rose hedge. It hides his unhappy spots so neither sight nor smell come through to offend. He doesn't see mine, nor I his.

The measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ will fill any remaining corners. Will He perhaps suggest some big smiley pansies, sunny jonquils, a rose of Sharon, some lilies of the field to watch and observe?

Selected by Sister Myrtle Unruh

THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE

When you go out in the morning
To begin the work of the day,
Don't neglect the little chances
You will find along your way;
For in lifting another's burden,
And speaking a word of cheer;
You will find your own cares lighter,
And easier for you to bear.

Forget each kindness that you do
As soon as you have done it;
Forget the praise that falls to you
The moment you have won it.
Forget the slander that you hear
Before you can repeat it.
Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer
Wherever you may meet it.

Remember every kindness done
To you whate'er its measure;
Remember praise by others won,
And pass it on with pleasure;
Remember every promise made,
And keep it to the letter,
Remember those who lent you aid,
And be a grateful debtor.

- Author Unknown

Selected by Sister Della Klepinger

OBITUARIES

MYRTLE MICHAEL

Sister Myrtle Michael, aged 61 years died suddenly at her home June 19, 1978.

She was the daughter of the late James and Lulie (Rotruck) Leatherman. She is survived by two daughters, one son, two brothers and six grandchildren.

Services were held in the Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church by Bro. Virgil Leatherman. Interment was in the Knobley Cemetery.

LENA BLOCHER

Sister Lena Netta Blocher was born December 22, 1893 at Elkhart, Indiana. She was the daughter of Charles Emery and Rosa Ann (Warner) Inks. As a child, she moved with her parents to North Dakota, then in 1906, to Wenatchee, Washington.

On March 22, 1914, she was married to Edward Joel Blocher and to this union were born seven children. They moved to Oregon, then in 1935 they came to Waterford, California, where they made their home.

Early in life, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour. She was baptized into the Church of the Brethren and later affiliated with the Dunkard Brethren Church. She lived a faithful, Christian life and was a loving and kind Mother. Lena's sweet disposition will long be remembered and the love for the Lord radiated in her quiet life.

She was preceded in death by her husband on March 6, 1977. Lena peacefully passed away at the home of her daughter, Anna Kinser, in Waterford, California, on June 29, 1978, at the age of 84 years, 6 months and 7 days.

She is survived by her seven children, Arthur Blocher of Modesto, California; Vera Smith of Waterford, California; Bro. Paul Blocher of Union, Ohio; Hazel Decker of Modesto, California; Anna Kinser of Waterford, California; Bro. Earl Blocher of New Paris, Ohio; and Alice French of Modesto, California; three sisters, Iva Chandler of Wenatchee, Washington; Edith Morris and Nora Scott, both of Spokane, Washington; twenty grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, one great-great granddaughter, plus nieces, nephews, many relatives and a host of friends.

THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

The journey of Life can beautiful be
If we a lesson in Seasons see.
In Spring-time of Life, the good seed sow
In some willing heart - it will grow and grow.
Through Summer heat and balmy night,
It will not wither, it will not blight,
For God sends the sunshine, also the rain,
To make for His harvest full ripened grain.
So let us keep sowing the precious seeds,
Willing to follow where Jesus leads.
As Autumn approaches we lift our eyes,
Near harvest-time, toward the western skies.

Whatever the task He bids us do,
His saving power will see us through.
When the Winter of Life takes Autumn's place,
The greater we value His saving Grace.
For at eventide, when our work is done,
His nail-scarred hand will lead us Home.
Yes! God's Harvest-time will a certainty be,
Eternal Joy! For you and for me.

- Alma Whiting

OUR SPEECH

A Christian is known by his, or her, conduct and speech. "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt..." Col. 4:6a. The word "let" signifies that we are to be in control of our speech, only then can we speak kindly to others or about another person's welfare.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we have no room in our heart for evil thinking or evil speaking. "Charity (love)... thinketh no evil."

From whence then come all these things? "... unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents." Rom. 1:29-30. They all come from wrong thinking and evil desires.

What about the busy-bodies? We are not to be a busy body in other men's matters. This is wrong. Read I Pet. 4:15, II Thess. 3:11.

Tale-bearing: This is against God's law. "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people..." Lev. 19:16a. We are not to have any part in that. "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: So where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." Prov. 26:20. Many a person has been wounded by the words of a talebearer.

The members at Corinth were overcome by evil desires: envy, strife, backbiting. The Apostle Paul suffered much grief because of their conduct. We would do well to take heed to how we hear, and never repeat any malicious gossip. That in itself destroys our Christian witness.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8. Our thought life controls our speech and our conduct.

AN EVENING PRAYER

If I have wounded any soul today—
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked my own willful way—
Dear Lord, forgive.

If I have uttered idle words or vain
If I have turned aside from want or pain—
Lest I offend some other through the strain,
Dear Lord, forgive.

Forgive the sins I have confessed to Thee—
Forgive the secret sins I do not see:
O guide me, love me, and my keeper be—
Dear Lord, forgive.

Sister Sylvia E. Parker
4290 W. St. Rt. 718, Troy, Ohio 45373

FINDING THE LORD

"Finding the Lord," is a common expression used today among certain faiths. The question is, "What does it mean?" Does the person using it mean that he was saved, when he found the Lord? I have heard it said, "I found the Lord when I was praying, or when by myself, when I was meditating." If the ones who use this expression mean that they were saved, I have to question their means of salvation.

Paul was a good example of a man praying to God. When he was struck down on the road to Damascus, the Lord didn't save him then, but told him to go, "... into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." Acts 9:6b.

In verse 9, it says, "And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat or drink." Yet it had to be told him what he must do to be saved. Let Paul, tell us what was told him. Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Here, Paul was told to arise and be baptized, in order for his sins to be washed away, calling on the name of the Lord.

I know, there is a theory in the world today that says all you have to do to be saved is just believe. I can not find that taught in God's Word. This theory eliminates water baptism. If the devil can get us to lay just one of the essentials of salvation down, then we are trapped, just like Eve in the Garden at the beginning. James says, "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of all." James 2:10.

Baptism was given by the Lord for a purpose. I want to bring to mind a few scriptures on the subject of baptism, to show what it is for. In Mark 16:16, Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." Here Jesus said it takes faith and baptism to be saved, not just faith. In Acts 2:38, to the ones who cried out and said, "men and brethren what must we do?", Peter replied, "...Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Romans 6:3, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Gal. 3:26-27, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

These scriptures teach us that baptism, 1. Is in order to be saved. Mark 16:16. 2. Is in order for our sins to be forgiven. Acts 2:38. 3. In order to get into Christ. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27. Surely no one will say we can be saved without baptism, in the face of all these scriptures. I am willing to discuss this subject with anyone who is not fully persuaded that without baptism, there is no salvation.

Brother W. E. Bashor

HAPPY TRACKS

There is a song with these words in it, "Leave alot of happy tracks as you go down life's road." This is a simple way of saying that we need to be concerned about those whom our lives touch, that we should try to spread happiness where there's misery, kindness where there's sorrow. We need to give love to even the unloveable, to let others know by all we say and do that we've truly been with Jesus.

A waitress who worked in a restaurant on a heavily traveled highway observed people from many walks of life. People who were conservatively dressed, women with their heads veiled. People whose outward appearance definitely said, "I've been with Jesus" were among them. Judging from what they apparently stood for, you would expect them to be among the well-respected patrons. Right? Wrong! She never saw any of them bow their heads and pray before they ate. They were some of the most unfriendly customers she had. Some even were rude. Needless to say, she found this very disturbing.

When you say you belong to the Lord, by your word and/or your appearance, people expect something of you. If you look to be one thing and act another, or if you say you are something and act

otherwise, you're certainly not leaving any happy tracks. What sort of a testimony are you leaving behind, whether you are travelling or are at home? Are you leaving a happy track, a Christian testimony, which truly honors the Lord? Or is it one which leaves a sour taste in the mouth of those whom your life has touched? As a Christian, you have a responsibility both to God and man, for you may be the only Bible some people ever read. If you are happy, kind, and loving, you will leave a pleasing testimony. This draws people to God and it's the kind of happy track God wants you to leave.

There's another song which says, "If you're happy, notify your face." Maybe it would be well to start right there in leaving a "happy track". Your countenance should, and eventually will, show what's in your heart. If you have the joy of salvation in your heart, what better way is there to reveal it than a warm, friendly smile? Nothing turns people away faster than a sour expression, while very few can resist a smile which genuinely says, "I care about you." Christians do need to care. That's one of the happy tracks you should leave behind. Besides, if you look miserable, who will want your Jesus?

Someone with a very troubled heart told me once that I personified peace. Peace which is visible to those about us can only be Christ's peace and it had to be this that this person was seeing. It came as somewhat of a surprise to know an unbeliever can see it so plainly and would say so, but it should be visible. He wanted peace and it had eluded him. Without salvation, he can't have peace or joy. When you radiate Christ's peace, you help draw people to Him where they can find lasting peace. Truly you've left a happy track when your life shows that genuine peace is possible.

"Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." Mark 5:19b. Jesus told him to make some happy tracks; he was to tell what all had been done for him. I believe he did it with a smile because there was joy in his heart. He wasn't self-righteous about it either, because he knew the Lord had set him free. The miracle which Jesus did in this man's life didn't make him any better than anyone else, but it did make him happier than many were. Jesus said in effect, "Tell it to others; don't keep it to yourself. Show them how to be happy and free also."

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord." II Tim. 1:8a. Don't be ashamed to let people know that Jesus is your Lord and that He makes you what you are. If you are falsely pious and self-righteous, you turn people away. No matter what the Lord has already done for you, you still need Him and you're no better

than anyone else. Wherever you go, whatever you do, manifest a Christ-like spirit. Rude manners, stand-offishness, unkindness and such do not leave any happy tracks; it doesn't bring any honor to God. Being ashamed of what He has done for you doesn't either. Make it your business to sincerely express, both in word and action, the transforming power of Christ.

"Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..." I Pet. 3:15b. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20. Your actions reveal whether or not your hope is in Christ. Someone may want to ask what it means to belong to Christ, and if you maintain a warm, friendly attitude to everyone, they feel welcome to ask. Truly when Jesus has become a vital part of your life, you won't be able to conceal it. Neither will you want to. You will gladly give a reason for your hope. You'll be leaving happy tracks wherever you go.

If you profess to know the Lord, then act like it. Manifest a Christ-like spirit wherever you go. The Pharisees had an outer label of piety but it was not in their hearts. They couldn't leave any happy tracks. Can you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

NEWS ITEMS

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation plans to hold their Fall Lovefeast on Sunday, October 8, the Lord willing. There will be an all day service with Lovefeast in the evening. A hearty invitation is extended to all who can come and worship with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Lititz Congregation plans to have their Fall Lovefeast, Saturday afternoon, October 14, starting at 2 o'clock with Lovefeast in the evening. A hearty invitation is extended to the Ministers and all who can attend our Lovefeast.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

We are happy to report that the Holy Spirit has been working in the hearts of our young people. Four have made their decision to follow their Saviour. All were baptized at night, as they did not want to put it off another day. We trust that each one will be faithful, letting their lives count for Christ.

The Lord willing, we expect to have a revival meeting from October 15 to 22. Bro. Allen Eberly has consented to be our evangelist. May the Lord direct as he ministers to us each night.

The meetings will close with a Lovefeast. Come and be with us if possible and do pray for all of us that we might be at our best for the Lord.

Sister Ethel Whitmer, Cor.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, Elder Dean St. John of Camden, Michigan will hold a ten day revival at the Walnut Grove Church. These meetings will begin September 22 and end with our annual Lovefeast on October 1, 1978. You are invited to attend and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Betty Shelly, Cor.

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone who remembered me in prayer during my recent hospitalization and since my return home. Thanks, too, for the many cards and gifts I received.

May the Lord richly bless you for all you have done.

Brother Glen Stauffer and family

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 1 — Greater Love. John 15:9-25.

Oct. 8 — The Comforter: The Spirit of Truth. John 15:26-27; 16:1-15.

Oct. 15 — "Ask and Ye Shall Receive." John 16:16-23.

Oct. 22 — Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. John 17:1-26.

Oct. 29 — Betrayal and Denial. John 18:1-27.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) How can we be absolutely sure of abiding in the love of Christ? John 15:10.
- (2) Did Jesus command us to love one another? John 15:17.
- (3) How can we remember all the commandments Jesus taught? John 14:26; John 16:13.
- (4) Is "Ask, and ye shall receive" an unqualified statement? Can we ask for a million dollars to lavish on ourselves and get it? If this statement is qualified, explain! John 16:23.
- (5) How can the world believe that Jesus was sent by the Father? John 17:20-23.
- (6) Who had command of the situation when Judas and the mob came to take Jesus in the garden? John 18:4-11.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR OCTOBER, 1978

COVENANTS

Memory Verse: I Kings 11:11

Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and give it to thy servant.

Sun. 1-2 Sam. 23:1-23

Mon. 2-I Kings 3:1-15

Tues. 3-I Kings 3:16-28

Wed. 4-I Kings 8:1-21

Thur. 5-I Kings 8:22-43

Fri. 6-I Kings 8:44-66

Sat. 7-I Kings 11:1-22

Memory Verse: I Kings 19:10

And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Sun. 8-I Kings 11:23-43

Mon. 9-I Kings 19:1-21

Tues. 10-I Kings 20:1-21

Wed. 11-I Kings 20:22-43

Thur. 12-II Kings 11:1-21

Fri. 13-II Kings 13:1-25

Sat. 14-II Kings 17:1-23

Memory Verse: II Kings 11:17

And Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people, that they should be the Lord's people; between the king also and the people.

Sun. 15-II Kings 17:24-41

Mon. 16-II Kings 18:1-18

Tues. 17-II Kings 18:19-37

Wed. 18-II Kings 19:1-19

Thur. 19-II Kings 19:20-37

Fri. 20-II Kings 22:1-20

Sat. 21-II Kings 23:1-14

Memory Verse: II Kings 23:3

And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

I Chron. 16:15

Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

Memory Verse: II Kings 13:23

And the Lord was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.

Sun. 22-II Kings 23:15-30

Mon. 23-I Chron. 11:1-25

Tues. 24-I Chron. 15:11-29

Wed. 25-I Chron. 16:1-19

Thur. 26-I Chron. 16:20-43

Fri. 27-I Chron. 17:1-27

Sat. 28-I Chron. 22:1-19

Memory Verse: II Kings 17:38

And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.

Sun. 29-I Chron. 28:1-21

Mon. 30-II Chron. 5:1-14

Tues. 31-II Chron. 6:1-21

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

CHILDRENS' SONG OF PRAISE

Lord, a little band, and lowly,
We are come to sing to thee;
Thou art great, and high, and holy —
O how thankful should we be!

Fill our hearts with tho'ts of Jesus,
And of heav'n, where he is gone;
And let nothing ever please us
He would grieve to look upon.

For we know the Lord of glory
Always sees what children do,
And is writing now the story
Of our tho'ts and actions, too.

Let our sins be all forgiven;
Make us fear whate'er is wrong;
Lead us on our way to heaven,
There to sing a nobler song.

— Selected

A PLAIN PEOPLE

Today we live in a world dominated by the extravagant, the sensational, the gaudy and the loud. With a notable lack of shame, people seek the attention of those around them. The music of the world is loud. Its newspapers, magazines, radios and television are full of sensationalism and lack of depth. Its billboards and advertisements appeal to the natural man through a shameless display of lust-provoking pictures and descriptions. The books of today's world are light, often vulgar and suggestive, volumes of no purpose but to entertain and titillate. This world creates minds and lives that have no purpose other than to seek pleasure and attention. It is a world that no longer knows the meaning or the value of the word "plain."

To speak of a Plain People or of being plain, brings only stares and shrugged shoulders. Plainness is not a concept that a pleasure-crazy, gaudy-minded world can understand. The world has its own religion which demands little and produces even less in the lives of its followers. It is designed to pay only lip-service to Christ and the Church, while following the pleasures and practices of the world. It is a religion devoid of devotion, yet it supposedly guarantees a home in Heaven. Seeing this, it is not hard to realize that such a world can not comprehend the meaning of plainness.

A Plain People. What is the first thing that comes to our minds? Dress. Certainly dress, as a very visible part of our lives, is very important as an indicator of plainness. A plain people must have a plain garb, but plainness must pervade every facet, possession and activity of life. Plainness of dress is but one area of a total life of

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plain living. Houses, automobiles and even our Church-houses are all integral parts of the plainness we desire to establish in our lives.

One of the methods for establishing plainness is avoiding unnecessary appendages. Plainness is concerned with more than just the cut of the clothes, it is concerned with the color, the material and how it is worn. Plainness is defeated if that which is nonfunctional and only for decoration is added to that which is plain. If those who wish to live a plain life would be careful in this, they would soon be noted for devotion to their profession and separation from the gaudy world. This would defeat the devil's design to bring compromise among the Plain People.

For many the teaching of plainness and simplicity of life is negative, because there is a demand for giving up what is so desirable to the natural man. But plainness is actually very positive for it is something that can be done — a positive act — to carry out the teachings of Jesus Christ. "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mark 12:30.

Jesus says our love for Him involves every part of our life. It involves the emotional, Spiritual, mental and physical powers of our lives. The heart as the center of our emotions dictates what we consider most important. The heart directs the display of our lives. In this life, the husband and wife demonstrate the inward feelings of the heart for each other. Our heart also prompts us to either serve or to disregard our Saviour.

Our souls, as the dwelling place of the spirit, will either be the home of the Holy Spirit or of the spirit of man. Depending on which Spirit is in possession of the soul, there will be a manifestation. Just as the good tree and the bad tree bring forth their good and bad fruit respectively so each spirit produces fruit from within each soul.

The power of the mind is so great in determining the style and fashion of life, for the thoughts of a mind will eventually be translated into deeds. What is inward, in the heart and soul and mind, will find expression in the body. Jesus calls for the service of a man's strength — his body. He does not accept the inward beliefs and thoughts of man only but asks for an outward manifestation of what is within. If the heart and soul and mind is truly dedicated to serving the Lord then the outward man must show it in plain attire, homes and Churches. If there is no outward manifestation then it could be concluded that there is an absence of the inward love that Jesus requires.

Are you carrying out the first commandment? All the way? Even in dress, decoration of home or office? Let the outside show what you believe inwardly.

DRIFTING

One of the definitions Webster gives of drifting is, "going along without knowing or caring where one is going." A good example of that definition in the natural life would be a man in a boat going downstream, not making any effort to control his boat, and perfectly at ease as to where he may go or in what condition he might arrive there.

I wish to use as a text a part of Amos 6:1, namely, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." The literal translation of this phrase simply means that trouble and sorrow await those who are careless about their souls' salvation and yet feel secure in the Rock of their Salvation. The Bible gives much warning to those who once made a covenant with God and have broken it. Much warning is given by the Apostles and Jesus, Himself, about continuing in His Word and remaining true and faithful until death.

There is a vast difference between the safety of a ship that is anchored and one that is adrift. The anchored ship is safe. A ship that is adrift is left to the mercy of the elements.

Spiritually speaking, to save our soul, we must be anchored to the Rock, Christ Jesus. We must be steadfast and sure. We are admonished in Ephesians 4:14, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." One who is tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine is not anchored but is certainly drifting.

When one drifts, he is not getting nearer to God and Christ but is gradually and surely getting farther away. He is getting very careless about his soul. He is losing interest in the Church which he once believed in. He violates his vows made to God and the Church. He accepts and gives his consent to practices in Christendom that he at one time condemned. He accepts, as acceptable to God, practices that the Word strictly forbids and God will not accept. One who drifts with the tide, goes faster and faster, and further and further from the place of beginning. No wonder the Word warns against such that are tossed to and fro!

God's Word is the same Word that our fore-parents believed in and lived by. His Word changes not. The same Word that our fore-parents lived by, we should live by. This is sound logic because this same Word will judge our fore-parents as well as us. John 12:48, "... The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

One who would be faithful unto his Lord and the Church certainly can recognize the signs of the times. The most short-sighted

individual can not help but see Christendom drifting farther and farther into the world and the world drifting into the Church. There is an intermingling of the world and the Church that ought not to be. One can not serve God and serve mammon at the same time. Look which way you will, this drifting away from God's Word is making itself manifest.

Bear in mind that when we think in terms of THE CHURCH, we are thinking of a called-out people. These are a people who have separated themselves from the world. Through the drifting process, these same called-out people are slowly but surely drifting back into the world.

The Church is designed for the true worship of God. Its mission is to proclaim the true Gospel to a dying and lost people. Its mission is to spread the Gospel, to bring sinners to repentance and to guide the souls of men to the Eternal Shore.

Christ is our pilot and the Bible our compass. If we follow these two, we will not drift from our true course. The Bible will never mislead and Christ will not pilot us in the wrong direction. It is when we are not willing to follow, that we start the drifting process.

Christendom is drifting fast when churches rely more on a social religion than they rely on the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Amusements are replacing the preaching of the Word at many places. Whenever the social program of a Church is better attended than the worship service, that church is adrift. I have had pointed out to me that in building these new and ultra-modern church edifices, the social rooms cover more footage of floor space than the sanctuary, in many instances. This is not pleasing to our Lord. He cleansed the Temple at Jerusalem of many things that are very prevalent in many Churches today. They have drifted from true worship to suppers, entertainments, bake sales, style shows and other forms of entertainment and money raising.

Through this definite drift, the Church has gradually toned down her testimony against sin. She has drifted from the Spiritual to the secular. Leaders of such organizations think this pleases God so they seemingly are at ease in Zion, apparently unaware of the woe that will surely be pronounced upon them.

The Devil is deceiving many by causing them to think and believe that entertainment is the way to get people to come into the Church. God never intended such a program. Jesus, dying on the Old Rugged Cross, was not dying to provide entertainment. He was dying for the atonement of your sins and my sins. Worshipping God acceptably is a sacred, solemn and serious matter. True worship for the benefit of the soul has drifted to the entertaining of the carnal side of life.

In establishing offices in the Church, we have these words, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." We find no mention anywhere in the Sacred Word of an entertainment committee. The Holy Ghost did not prompt any Bible writer to mention any such office. Such committees are the result of the drift away from the True Word. Our true and sincere worship is to be a "sweet savor unto God" and not a stench in His nostrils.

The early evangelists and boundless confidence in the power of the Gospel. They used no other means to convict men of their sins.

The charges brought against the early Apostles by the members of the council was, "Ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine." There is no danger of such a charge being brought against modern preachers today. They do not preach sound doctrine. They have drifted from sound doctrine to teaching the commandments of men. Matt. 15:9.

When scattered by persecution, the early disciples "WENT EVERYWHERE PREACHING THE WORD." When the call came to the Apostle Paul to come over into Macedonia and help us, he accepted the call to come and preach the Gospel unto them. He went and he preached and souls were saved. His earnest, spirit-filled preaching brought the cry, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also." The big difference between then and now, is that the world is turning the Church up-side down now.

May we as a Dunkard Church repudiate the modern trend. May we be careful not to drift from our polity. May we not be at ease in Zion. May we rigidly and determinedly work upstream, rather than drift downstream.

It is my firm belief that many so-called churches are in the same condition that Samson was after Delilah enticed him. "And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him." I believe it is possible to drift so far from the true Word, that the Spirit departs and no longer strives. When a body of believers drifts from her true moorings, it is no wonder if the Holy Ghost, grieved and insulted, withdraws His presence, for "what concord hath Christ with Belial? ... and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?"

A church adrift and a ship adrift are headed for destruction. I firmly believe that the Lord will not tarry much longer. I do not believe that anyone accepting any belief other than the Word, will be saved. I do not believe that we can drift with the multitude. If we do, then we are not ready for His Coming.

I pray our beloved Church will "hold the fort" against the wiles of the Devil. I pray She will not be swept with the worldly tide. I pray She will make Herself ready for the coming of the Bridegroom.

Let's stay ready, Christian Pilgrim,
For the coming of our Lord,
For we don't know just the minute
He'll return with His reward.

For His faithful saints and servants
That are watching night and day,
Longing for the life so blessed
That shall never pass away.

Yes, He's coming, surely coming,
For His Bride upon the earth
That has robed herself in garments
That are wondrous in their worth.
Garments washed so pure and Holy,
In His blood that sanctifies,
And that makes us fit for Heaven,
That sweet home beyond the skies.

Let us keep our deep affection
Set on Holy things above,
Lest the world and her attractions
Rob our hearts of Godly love,
That would cause the pearly portals
To outclose our precious souls,
And remorse would be our portion
While the age Eternal rolls.

It should be our aim and purpose,
Yes, the purpose that's supreme,
To be found where God would have us
Going up Salvation's stream,
Helping others pull in earnest
With their hands upon the oars,
And their prayers and faith ascending
Up to Heaven's glory shores.

Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630



We should correct our own faults by seeing how uncomely they appear in others. — Beaumont.

THINK ON THESE THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

"...whatsoever things are true, ...honest, ...just, ...pure, ...lovely, ...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." These are all positive things, good things, healthy food for thought. Things which are false, dishonest, unjust, impure, and so forth are all negative and they are not good food for thought. It is not constructive to think continually about how poor we are, how sick we are, how much heartache we have. To be uplifting, our thoughts need to be constructive. We need to focus our attention on the good things we have in Christ, not on our troubles.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Prov. 23:7a. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man:" Matt. 15:19-20a. If you think about evil, that's what you're going to do. That thought is more than just having it cross your mind. It is dwelling on it until you decide to do this or that, even if it doesn't please God. Eventually you will carry out whatever you had in mind because it pleases you. The action definitely originates within you.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5. Christ's mind was to serve; He was humble, obedient to God. He waited for God to honor Him rather than exalting Himself. He made it His business to please God in everything. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil. 2:13. Christ's mind was to please God. Even when His death on the Cross was imminent, He prayed, "Not My will but Thine be done." If your thoughts are to do God's Will, this is what He will help you do. He will work in your life to bring out that which pleases Him when you submit your mind to Him.

A reference lists several attitudes of the Christian and the mind is active in all of them. None are passive attitudes. One is peace which indicates a quiet mind, a mind at rest but not a lazy one. It is a mind ready to share, to offer comfort, and encouragement. Another attitude is a mind open to receive instruction, God's instruction, not just anything. An active mind is ready to face what comes. This mind finds joy in fellowship, joy in the Lord, and all He has done for us. Such a mind is progressive, ready to move forward in the Lord's work. And last but not least, the active, positive mind is exalted, not in pride, but is lifted above this troubled life.

If your mind is filled with good thoughts, you have something to offer those who need comfort or direction for their lives. When your mind is filled with peaceful thoughts, this radiates to those

around you and tends to quiet their troubled spirits. If you have turmoil, you only add to theirs. There is so much empty conversation, so much empty thinking; if God's people don't have anything better to offer, to whom can people go? It is important to have your mind and heart filled with the message of Christ so you have something genuine to offer people.

When your mind is open to receive instruction, you will be expecting something. You will be looking forward to whatever God has to give you next. You will be glad when He opens your heart to a greater understanding of His Word. As His Word strengthens you, you will be better prepared to face whatever events come in your life. You will know more of the promises available to you, to be claimed and trusted in, in time of need. Rather than being defeated in a trial, you will find victory, all because you've allowed God to give you much good food for thought.

Through your experiences with the Lord, you will find more and more good things to think about and to share with others. As you fellowship with others and tell them about what God has done for you, both of your minds will be focused on positive things. Continually talking and thinking about the miseries of this life only makes one feel worse, but counting your blessings, as the song says, lifts your spirits. Really being glad for the good experiences you have also encourages and inspires those about you.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalms 19:14. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalms 119:11. If you want truthful and honest thoughts, if you want a pure heart, free of prejudice and partiality, you must have God's Word in your heart. Without His Word, your thoughts won't be as positive, healthy and worthwhile as they should be. But with His Word in your heart, you will have the best there is to think on.

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." 1 Timothy 4:15.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554



He will be immortal who liveth till he be stoned by one without fault. — Fuller.

Fashion seldom interferes with nature without diminishing her grace and efficiency. — Tuckerman.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"MY FATHER'S BUSINESS"

LUKE 2:41-52

It was a great time in Israel. The feast of the Passover was about to take place and Jesus, who was twelve years old, was going to Jerusalem with his parents, Joseph and Mary. The Passover was a feast that celebrated the time when the Jewish people were about to leave Egypt. God told Moses to have them put the blood of a lamb around the door frame of their houses. When the death angel came by he would see the blood and pass over that house. All the firstborn of the families of Egypt died, even Pharaoh's oldest son. The Bible says that there was not a house in Egypt where there was not one dead. Then Pharaoh let the people of God go.

Once a year the people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The celebration lasted seven days and Jesus, like any other boy, was happy to go. Joseph and Mary were poor people, who lived in Nazareth, about fifty miles from Jerusalem. Fifty miles was a long way to go when people had to walk. They probably had a donkey to carry their food, water and necessary things. As they came closer to the great city, other families joined them. Soon there was such a crowd of people that it was hard to stay together. Some had brought animals to sacrifice. With all the animals, children and people on a dusty road, it must have been something!

When the feast of the Passover ended, Joseph and Mary started for home but Jesus stayed behind. They, supposing Jesus was in the company somewhere, weren't worried about him. After they had gone a day's journey and they still hadn't seen Jesus, they searched among their relatives and friends. Jesus wasn't there. Joseph and Mary turned back to Jerusalem. After three days they found him. What do you think Jesus was doing? He was in the Temple, sitting down with the lawyers and scribes all around him. They were listening to Jesus, a twelve year old boy, who was asking them questions concerning the law. These men were the educated people of that day. They had studied the law all their lives. They were the ones who taught others, but here was Jesus teaching them! "All that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."

Joseph and Mary were amazed when they saw Jesus teaching the professors of that day. They couldn't understand it. Mary said to Jesus, "Son, why have you treated us this way? We were worried about you and have hunted for you three days!" And Jesus said, "How is it that you sought me? Don't you know that I must be about my Father's business?"

Jesus was speaking of His Heavenly Father. He had a work to do and came into this world for that purpose. Jesus went home with Joseph and Mary and was subject unto them, but Mary kept all these sayings in her heart.

Each of us has a work to do. We should be about our Heavenly Father's business too. Jesus says, "Let your light so shine that others may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Brother Rudy Cover

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, THE BIBLE MADE PLAIN

Editors Note: The following article is the first of a series that appeared in the Bible Monitor a number of years ago. The author, who has served the Church for many years, is now aged and blind. He feels this is one way he can still serve. This series will appear as space permits.

PART 1

It is the purpose of the author of this work to make plain some of the leading topics of the Holy Bible. If the Bible Monitor Staff will see fit to publish this article and the following articles, it will be a medium whereby some of the most extensive research of the Holy Scriptures may go forth with our earnest prayer that saints may be edified and encouraged to a more diligent search of God's Holy Word and that sinners may flee the wrath to come and be saved. We wish to study such topics as: the ages of the world, dispensations of man on the earth, God's everlasting kingdom, His eternal purpose for man both Jew and Gentile, as well as the destiny of both the saved and the unsaved, also such topics as God's covenants with man, who are Christ's Elect, and so forth.

First, the Bible is the Book of the Ages. It is the revelation of the Triune God — The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit — three in person and one in unity. It is a revelation also of God's eternal purpose and plan for man, in all the ages and dispensations of the world. We believe the ages to be three and the dispensations, seven. When the Bible speaks of the world or this world, it usually means the people or population of the earth, however in many places, it means the earth itself or this planet on which we live. A careful study of the context, in each instance, will designate which it means.

We designate the dispensations of man as consisting of six, while living in this mortal flesh and one (the seventh) while living in his resurrected state or in his spiritual body, the immortal state of the righteous — for one thousand years while the wicked live not

again until the thousand years be finished. Also we designate them as follows: (1) "Edenic"; (2) "Antediluvian"; (3) "Post-diluvian, or of human government"; (4) "Patriarchal, or dispensation of the family"; (5) "Dispensation of law"; (6) "Dispensation of Rest, or Christ's millennial dispensation — Christ reigning with all His redeemed of all ages, a righteous and sinless dispensation.

Also that the ages of the world are three. (1) "The Antediluvian Age", (2) "The Present or Legal Age", (3) "The Millennial Age", with eternity to follow, which consists of "the new heaven", the "new earth", and the "new city." Let us now study these dispensations in order.

First, The Edenic Dispensation or dispensation of innocence. We turn now to the first chapter and the first verse of the Bible. Gen. 1:1-2, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Note: "In the beginning of what?" The beginning of the creation of all things so far as man has knowledge. These verses tell what God did. Just a statement thus far that tells nothing as to how nor when God did this, except as the following verses reveal.

The "earth was without form," means it was just dust or dirt, without any formations, when He created it. "Darkness was upon the face of the deep," or prevailed over waters, which surrounded God's Throne in high heaven, we believe this to be the third heaven, which is His Throne.

From our study of the Word, we find that waters are around God's Throne, which is the place of abode of the Creator. Our proof texts, Scriptural backings, will show that this is true. The Holy Spirit of God "moved on the face of the deep" (waters). This shows that the Holy Spirit was present at the first Creation and a part in it. This is shown also in verse 26. God said "Let us make man, and so forth" speaking as we believe to Christ, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. The "us" reveals as much. This is also proven in John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." "The same was in the beginning with God." Also in verse 14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." These verses show that the "Word", Christ, was Creator, with God the Father, and with God, the Holy Spirit.

The Triune God then proceeded to make a "day for man", a creation day. "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light

from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day," Gen. 1:3-5. When we think of our day, we think of from daylight until dark. Not so, a full day takes in the night and the evening. Darkness or night comes first and the light or the morning, last of a full day, with God.

Here again, these verses tell what God did. He made a day for man. That day consisted of light and darkness, which He made, and "He called the light day and the darkness He called night." Then the Inspired Word tells us, that this was the first day, "evening and morning" or night and day was the result of the first day of Creation. Hence in the succeeding verses of this first chapter of the Bible, is told just what God did, that which He created, in each of the other six days of His Creation. Then God "ended His work on the seventh day and rested the seventh day," from all His work, which He had created and made.

On the second day of God's Creation, He made heaven (or the heavens above us) by dividing the "waters from the waters," and so forth. On the third day of God's Creation, He made the earth (formed it or fashioned it) out of the dust, or earth which He had created, verse 1. He also made the vegetation upon the earth, verses 9 through 13.

Apparently, when God first created earth, being "without form and void," it was just a volume of dirt or dust, so to speak, and that there were "waters under the firmament and the waters above the firmament" and "God called the firmament Heaven." "And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day." Gen. 1:6-8.

At the dividing of the waters of the heaven, God gathered the waters together unto one place, and the dry earth, which He had created, appeared. "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: And God saw that it was good." Verses 9-10. If that dry land (earth) which appeared, which was void, had ever been inhabited by man, or any other living creature, or living spirit, man has no knowledge of it, and to theorize upon it, would be the utmost folly.

In verses 11 through 13, "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after

his kind, whose seed is in itself...and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day." Hence we see, that as far as man will ever know in this life, that God formed the earth, on which we live, which He had created, and named it in the third day of Creation.

— To be continued

Brother William Root

1612 Morphy Street, Great Bend, Ks. 67530

OBITUARY

CHESTER TATE

Brother Chester Arthur Tate was born February 22, 1885 to Elbridge and Mary (Hill) Tate near Carlinville, Illinois. He passed away August 20, 1978 at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Edwin St. John, at the age of 93 years, 5 months and 28 days.

As a youth he moved with his family to Girard, Illinois. On January 1, 1913 he was married to Nellie Roesch. To this union was born one son and four daughters. In 1925 the family moved to Williams County, Ohio where he spent the remaining years of his life. The past six years he made his home with his daughters.

In 1913 he was baptized into the Church of the Brethren, later transferring his membership to the Dunkard Brethren Church.

His wife, Nellie; a son, Donald; and a brother, Everett, preceded him in death.

He is survived by the daughters, Mrs. Vern (Dortha) Hostetler, West Unity, Ohio; Mrs. Clifford (Marcella) St. John, Stryker, Ohio; Mrs. Claude (Melba) Flory and Mrs. Edwin (Clara) St. John, Pioneer, Ohio; one sister, Mrs. Florence Shattuck, Erie, Pennsylvania; fifteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

God saw you were getting weary
He did what he thought was best,
He put his arm around you
And took you home to rest.

Your memory is our keepsake,
With that we'll never part,
God has you in his keeping,
We have you in our heart.

Just a prayer from those who love you,
Just a memory fond and true,
In our hearts you'll live forever,
For we thought the world of you.

Funeral services were conducted at the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church on Tuesday, August 22, 1978 by Elder Dean St. John, assisted by Elder Harley Flory. Burial followed in Shiffler Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS**GOSHEN, INDIANA**

The Goshen Congregation will hold their lovefeast on November 4. We extend an invitation to all, who are able to attend.

Sister Sharon Swihart, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation enjoyed another revival meeting with Brother David Kegerreis as speaker. Although none were added to the Church, we feel the good seed was sown and pray we may reap a harvest in days to come. We trust each one was made aware of his duties and responsibilities to the Church and to one another. May we all strive to have a closer walk with our Master and Lord, because the days are evil.

May the Lord bless Brother David as he continues to preach the Word from time to time.

Sister Della Klepinger, Cor.

APPRECIATION

We take this means to heartily thank each one who remembered us with gifts and cards in the observance of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We received one hundred cards.

We thank the Good Lord for the blessings He has bestowed upon us during these fifty years and for our many friends. Thank you again and may God richly bless each one for your thoughtfulness.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,
Marvin and Elsie Eberly

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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BIBLE MONITOR

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OCTOBER 15, 1978

NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SUNLIGHT

I wandered in the shades of night,
Till Jesus came to me,
And with the sunlight of His love
Bid all my darkness flee.

Tho' clouds may gather in the sky,
And billows round me roll,
However dark the world may be
I've sunlight in my soul.

While walking in the light of God,
I sweet communion find;
I press with holy vigor on,
And leave the world behind.

I cross the wide extended fields,
I journey o'er the plain,
And in the sunlight of His love
I reap the golden grain.

Soon I shall see Him as He is,
The light that came to me;
Behold the brightness of His face,
Thro'-out eternity.

J. W. Van De Venter

A PERFECT CHURCH

A perfect Church would be the most glorious institution in this world. Many have spent their lives searching for such a Church, but they have failed. In the meantime they have denied themselves the blessings of serving God through the Church, though imperfect. Their lives will have been a failure for they will have failed to find the perfect Church and they will have failed to gain eternal life. They refused to unite with the Church when they had opportunity.

God has given the Church a perfect Saviour and perfect doctrine. The hindrance of the Church is the imperfection of Her members; there is a gap between what is and what should be.

God has provided the Church with a perfect Saviour. Although Jesus was tempted by all the sins common to man He did not sin. Because He was without blemish, He could be the sacrificial Lamb of God. He did not die to pay the debt for His own sin but to pay the debt demanded for the sins of each person in this world. He died in the place of others. He obeyed the commands and demands of the Father perfectly. He and His Father were One. It was their united will to rescue fallen mankind. Without a perfect Saviour, the Church would have no one worthy of Her worship nor One who could prepare Her way to Heaven.

Not only does the Church have a perfect Saviour but She has also been given a perfect doctrine to live by. God has not left His Church without a specific way of life. Since man has been created to please God, it is reasonable that God would specify what

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actions would be a pleasure for Him to behold. He has delivered such a teaching to the Church, not for Her debate or discussion, but for Her living. The doctrines of the New Testament are perfect and necessary.

God has given the Church a perfect Saviour and a perfect doctrine, yet the Church remains imperfect. The weakness is not in what God has provided but in the men who are the Church. Throughout the Bible are revealed the many faults of men — even of godly men. The imperfections of these men of past ages are the continuing imperfections of men today.

Abraham is known as the Father of the Faithful, but he lacked faith when God promised him a son. Instead of believing God, literally, Abraham took matters into his own hands to provide a son, who was not the son of promise. In this he lacked faith — he was imperfect.

Moses, who received the Law from God, likewise proved his imperfection. He allowed the frustrations and irritations of leading the children of Israel, through the forty, fruitless years in the wilderness, to cost him a home in the Promised Land. He could no longer cope with the murmuring and pettiness of his people. Their provocation caused him to lose control of his emotions. He struck the rock to fetch them water in his own supposed power. He was imperfect.

David, the man after God's own Heart, likewise proved his imperfection. He fell to the sin of lust which led in turn to deception and murder. He tried to cover up his sin but failed. He was imperfect.

These are but three of many similar stories found in the Bible. These stories do not glorify sin but are given to warn man that he is imperfect. Because men — even Christian men — lack perfection, the Church also lacks perfection.

The imperfection of mankind is evident on every hand in the earthly Church. There is an imperfect worship of the perfect Saviour and an imperfect compliance with the perfect doctrine. Does God ignore and excuse man's imperfections and failures? No! "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:30. We are no longer living in a time of being excused. We live in the time when repentance is commanded and demanded of each person. God desires man to examine himself and repent of his sins. The Gospel age provides God's Grace and Mercy in abundance, if we will avail ourselves of the opportunity. With repentance, progress can be made toward the goal of a perfect Church.

Are you searching for the perfect Church? Search for the Church which follows a Perfect Saviour and teaches a Perfect Doctrine. When you have found such a Church, it will still be imperfect, because of the imperfections of Her members. But don't be too hard on those members until you have examined your own life and seen your own need for repentance — then together with your imperfect Brother and Sister you can make the journey to the Perfect Home in Heaven.

REJECTED LOVE

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not." John 1:11. Jesus did come to His own, the Jews, and they rejected Him. The whole pattern of His coming and ministry didn't fit in with the way they expected it to be, so they refused to accept Him. You can reject Christ's love as they did; you can turn your back on Him, but you can't avoid facing Him in judgment. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48.

When you offer your love to someone and that love is rejected, a barrier is set up and you can't go beyond it. Love needs to be expressed; it needs to be received with gladness if it is to bless and serve its intended purpose. Whatever good may have come of the relationship is quenched by the rejection of that love. If we reject Christ's love, we erect a barrier between us and Him. He won't force His love upon us; He just waits for us to accept it. When we don't accept it, we quench that love and cheat ourselves out of all the good things Christ wants to give us.

Any barrier set up against His love is also against His blessings. When love is rejected — the best you have to give — it is like saying to you that no matter how good it is, it's not good enough. Love seeks the best for its object of affection. Christ does this, yet He is often rejected. His love is the best there is. To reject it means you are telling God that the love-gift of His Son isn't good enough for you. God cannot bless you, He cannot give you peace, joy and comfort until you accept His Son, Jesus, and His love for you.

Christ was privately and personally rejected by many Jewish people, especially by their religious leaders. Later on, He was openly, publicly rejected in favor of another. "And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas." Luke 23:18. Barabbas was a "notable" prisoner (Matt. 27:16); he was a murderer, revolutionist (Mark 15:7), and a robber (John 18:40). The religious leaders were jealous of Christ's popularity and they wanted Him out of their way. They stirred the

people to ask for release of a man who would likely cause more heartache and trouble, instead of Jesus. They preferred having a criminal, who would harm them, over having Christ, who would love them.

People reject God's love for different reasons — personal opinions, social position, and so forth. The religious leaders rejected Christ (see Luke 9:22), except for a few who secretly believed. They preferred their own way to Christ's way. "And he said unto them (the scribes and Pharisees), Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." Mark 7:9. If you prefer your own way and put your own notions first as they did, you are rejecting God, His love, His blessings, His grace and His wisdom. God knows best. His love is the best. He can give us the best there is. To reject Him is to commit spiritual suicide.

When Jesus freed the two demon-possessed men in the country of the Gadarenes, He allowed the devils to enter a great herd of swine. The swine then all ran over a cliff and drowned in the sea. (Matt. 8:28-34). Everyone was frightened and the whole city came out and asked Jesus to leave. Rather than being glad because the men were now in their right minds, the people were very upset. They didn't understand all that had happened, they were afraid, and as people often do, they rejected what they couldn't comprehend.

Jesus left at their request, but He left a witness behind. He told one man (Mark 5) to go home and tell what all had been done for him, how the Lord had had compassion on him. The healed man told his story all over town. He had received Jesus and His love and was openly thankful. Very likely many in the area later accepted Christ just because of this man's testimony, for "all men did marvel." (Mark 5:20).

There are those who reject Christ and His love. There are those who accept Him. He will deal with each accordingly, but His desire is to give love and life to all. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12. Jesus laid down His life for us — He gave to the limit for us — yet His love is still rejected by many. "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." John 5:40. You can either go your own way in this life and then suffer eternal death, or you can accept Him now and receive life. Which will it be?

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, ... nor things present, nor things to come, ... nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our

Lord." Rom. 8:38-39. No matter how bad things get, His love is still yours. It doesn't stop when conditions become unfavorable. This assurance is to those who have accepted Christ's love. Nothing can separate you from this love except your own rejection of it. Have you accepted or rejected His love?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

BEARING RESPONSIBILITY

I choose for my text for this article a portion of I Tim. 6:20, namely, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust."

My objective in writing this article is to encourage, particularly, our young Brethren and Sisters, to bear their responsibility in the Church. I encourage each to be true, faithful, devout and loyal to the promises he made when he accepted Christ and became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

The Apostle Paul was admonishing and encouraging young Timothy to prove himself a good steward, to be faithful to, to keep and take care of, to protect, to maintain in good condition and to cause to be continued that which was delivered and committed to him. He was responsible for its safe keeping. The Apostle Paul gave a very responsible charge to Timothy. I will only refer to it in part. Read the books of I and II Timothy, then put yourself in Timothy's position.

Before referring to the charge, let me state that Paul knew that Timothy would be faithful to his responsibilities. It is recorded in II Tim. 1:5 that he had "unfeigned faith." Timothy's faith was real, genuine and sincere. I believe to successfully carry out our responsibility in the Church we must have real, genuine faith in God. I Cor. 4:2, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." Timothy proved faithful. May each member prove himself or herself faithful to the trust placed in each of us.

In Paul's charge to Timothy, as recorded in II Tim. 4:2, we have these words, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." This portion of the charge applies principally to ministers and may we bear this responsibility well!

Other portions apply to each member and I can only refer to them in part, as there are many.

II Tim. 4:5, "But watch thou in all things..."

II Tim. 2:3, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier..."

II Tim. 2:1, "...Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

I Tim. 4:14, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee..."

I Tim. 5:22, "...keep thyself pure."

I Tim. 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith..."

These are some of the teachings that were committed to Timothy to keep. Paul told Timothy in II Tim. 1:14, "That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

Taking Timothy as an example, the young members of our Church have a good pattern to follow. It is each member's responsibility to live a life that becomes a pattern of good works. Many of the older Brethren and Sisters must lay down the work because of infirmity and old age. For the work of the Church to go on, the younger generation will have to assume and accept the responsibility of the future Church. It is with this point in mind that I appeal to the young members of our Beloved Church.

Referring again to parts of Paul's charge to Timothy, let us notice II Tim. 4:5, "But watch thou in all things..." I believe that Paul's charge is applicable to every member of the Church. I believe we should all be on our guard at all times. Be very careful where we frequent. Be cautious in our dressing that we stay within the code of the Church. In our dealings, "provide all things honest in the sight of God." "All things" covers every phase of our life, both natural and Spiritual. Do all to the honor and glory of God.

II Tim. 2:3, "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier..." We are in the Army of the Lord. We are soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must train and condition ourselves to endure hardness. It may be persecution. It may be that we will be made fun of. It is very probable that in the course of our Christian life, we will meet the opposition of the enemy. But in every instance, we must endure. We must not be overcome. A soldier in carnal warfare bears great responsibility. We, as soldiers of the cross, have a grave responsibility and we need to bear it and bear it willingly, that we may be victors in the end and win the crown.

II Tim. 2:1, "...Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." We enjoy and bask in the free mercy and favor of God and Christ. It comes to us undeserved. In turn, we want to extend mercy and favor to our Brethren and Sisters and even to our fellow-men. One of the great short-comings in our nation today is the lack of showing mercy and favor to one another. Jesus was tender and full of compassion. Let each of us cultivate these qualities more and more. The present Church needs them and so does the future Church. Paul admonished Timothy to be strong in grace. The same admonition applies to us today.

I Tim. 4:14, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee." God gave Timothy the various gifts which he possessed. Paul told him to use them. In using them, he could be a blessing to God and to mankind. How true this applies to us today. If God has given you the gift to speak, speak the Word unashamedly. If He has given you the gift to teach, try to be the best teacher. If your gift is singing, pour out your heart in making melody to the Lord. Whatever your gift of talent, make strong and good use of it. By exercising your talent, God will increase it. The combined talents of the members make up the workings of the Church. It takes each one, doing his or her part, willingly, to make a working soul-saving Church. If some refuse to do their part, they become a weak link and weaken the entire efforts of the Body. While you are young, take ahold of the work. Laboring along beside older members prepares you for the time when you may have to bear the responsibility without the help of the older members.

I Tim. 5:22, "...Keep thyself pure." We do not know just how difficult it was in Paul's time to live a clean life. We know it is getting more difficult to live a pure life, because of the modernism, worldliness and disbelief around us on every side. Perhaps the Apostle Paul would make this passage stronger if he were writing it today. Perhaps young people are tried harder today than the older. They have more temptations. Satan has clever devices to trip believers. Regardless, if we are willing to stand for Christ and the Church, God will help us. We need not smoke "pot". We need not "streak". We need not violate our bodies in sex sins. We need not accept false teachers. We need not cheat in school or at our work. We need not "strike" against our employer. The list is long. If we keep ourselves free of these worldly evils, I believe we are approaching the goal Paul had in mind when he said, "Keep thyself pure." The world will be aware of the fact that we are not of this world, but are "born again." Paul wanted Timothy to stand out from the world and give his all for Christ and the Church. I believe God wants each of us to be the same, identical way.

The last I shall refer to is I Tim. 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith..." As a soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are constantly in a battle with Satan. Paul experienced the fact that "when he would do good, evil was nigh." We have similar experiences. Even our Lord and Master was tempted by Satan. In the above paragraph, I used the phrase, "we need not" do the many things there listed. We do not need to do them. We have a wonderful promise given of God found in I Cor. 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the

temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Embodied in this verse of scripture is another reason why we should be willing to bear responsibility. We have a great partner. God will never leave nor forsake us. He will be right on hand to prepare an escape route for us when we are tempted.

We are thankful for those, who in the past, have borne their responsibility in maintaining the Church. No where outside of the Church can we find shelter from the Devil's storm. We only can find freedom from the penalty of sin, from Satan's enticement, in the Church through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May we each accept and bear well, our responsibility today, that there might be a Church tomorrow, for those who would seek salvation.

Brother Paul R. Myers,
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

TO KEEP IN TOUCH

What a wonderful invention the telephone is. It is useful for business calls and for calls to loved ones and friends. We keep in touch and loved ones do not seem so far away.

This morning I have been thinking of our communication system with our Father in Heaven. What a blessing that:

Central's never busy, always on the line;
You may hear from Heaven almost anytime.
'Tis a royal service, free for one and all,
When you get in trouble, give this royal line a call.
Telephone to Glory, O, what joy divine!
I can feel the current moving on the line;
Built by God the Father for His loved and own,
We may talk to Jesus thru' this royal telephone.

Our Prayer line is our Power line. The prayer of faith activates the power of God. When danger is near, handle with prayer.

Sweet hour of Power, sweet hour of Power,
That gives me strength in darkest hour;
The blessings fall, a Holy shower,
When I recall my hour of Power.

The Psalmist David knew that daily he must keep in touch. In Psalms 86:3 we read, "Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily." Verses 5-7, "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me."

Isaiah 55:6, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Jer. 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

These scriptures I have quoted prove that God wants us to keep in touch with Him. He is interested in everything that happens to us. When we call our loved ones on the telephone, we listen to what they have to tell us. If we do all the talking we only know what we already knew before we called. The same is true when we call our Heavenly Father in prayer. We must be silent, too, and hear what God has to say to us. Psalms 46:10-11, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." Jer. 29:12-13, "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

The above scriptures have come to mind as I have pondered this morning on the use of the telephone and how it brings our loved ones near and how prayer brings God near. Psalm 145:18, "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon him in truth."

In John 16:23b-24 Jesus tells His disciples, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto, have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." James 4:8a, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

Let's keep in touch!

THE ANSWER

I thanked God in the evening, when the day was past and gone,
And I praised Him for His Presence, guiding me from early dawn.
Many were the cares and problems, there arose unseen to meet,
But His Presence was my pilot, calmly sailing o'er the deep.
So I lay aside earth's problems, now the shades of evening fall,
Thus in peace and faith to slumber, with His Presence over all.

— Charlotte G. Johnstone
Sister Edyth Kline

FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS

We have many warnings in God's Word to take heed concerning false prophets and teachers. Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits." "But there

were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." II Pet. 2:1-2.

There were many false prophets in the time of the Apostles. If there ever was a time we need teaching and examples of the plain, simple life and to oppose the evil, disgraceful fashions of the world and also to oppose all wickedness that may be covered by plain clothing, it is today. Jesus said to the faithful, "Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves." Luke 10:3.

Many opposed Christ because of His life of truth and righteousness. He never yielded to the temptations of Satan nor fell to those who were in error. Satan sometimes appears as an angel of light. Some make a beautiful, outward appearance but the inward part is as dead men's bones. Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets and shall shew great signs and wonders; is so much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt. 24:23-24.

One of the worst things the Apostle Paul found on all his travels was false brethren. He gave us many warnings concerning false prophets and teachers. He said after his departure, grievous wolves would enter in among them sparing not the flock and they would lead away disciples after them.

The Apostle John tells us, "Beloved, believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God... Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God..." We are instructed, "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words... from such withdraw thyself."

We are taught in the saving Gospel of Christ that man is to be the head of the woman. Headship is not what it should be among many professing Christians today. Many have been misled from the path of truth and righteousness. Many are seeking human desires that are contrary to the saving gospel. We have today what they call the "Equal Rights Movement" and women are becoming, what they call, Church leaders. Any teaching that is contrary to the New Testament is false teaching.

There is no reason to become discouraged from being few in number. Men of God stood alone when tempted and tried. Where two or three are gathered in His Name He will be in their midst. Will

we be with the faithful through the valley and shadow of death? Only the truth will stand the test in the day of judgment. Satan is the author of all falsehood and deceitfulness.

The confession of Christ does not harbor or hide sins; it will cleanse us from all sins. Some may speak great swelling words of vanity by which they allure, through the lusts of the flesh and get others to believe salvation can be obtained without repentance and confession of truth and righteousness. We receive knowledge through the saving Gospel, the Way of light and of truth. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness..."

Let us ever be aware of the warnings of the Apostle Paul. Christ said, "...by their fruits, ye shall know them."

Brother J. F. Marks
RD 3 - Box 509, York, Pennsylvania

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"

MATTHEW 3:1-17

John the Baptist was the greatest of all prophets. Jesus said, "Among men that are born of woman there is not a greater prophet than John the baptist." John's mother was Elizabeth who was a cousin to Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was six months older than Jesus.

John first preached in the wilderness of Judea. It was not a desert area with no people but there were six cities and their villages there. It was thinly populated and John had grown up there. He told the people, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The ones in this part of the country were common people and they came to John, confessing their sins and were baptized of him in the Jordan river.

John told the people many things. So many people came to hear him that the Pharisees decided to investigate and find out what was going on. When John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Vipers are snakes and John knew that these people were only spying on him. They did not want the people to listen to anyone but themselves.

The soldiers also came to John and said, "And what shall we do?" John replied to them, "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages." It took a brave man

to tell a Roman soldier what not to do and what to do.

The publicans or tax collectors also came to John and asked what they should do. John said, "Exact no more than that which is appointed you." The tax collectors were hired by the Romans to collect taxes from the Jews. Many times these men would ask more of the people, keeping the extra for themselves. John knew these men and was not afraid to remind them of their sins.

Some of the people thought that John was the Christ. John told them that he indeed baptized them with water, but the Christ that should come would baptize them with the Holy Ghost. John was not about to take the honor of being Christ upon himself.

One day Jesus came to John. John said, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Jesus asked John to baptize Him. John said, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?" Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." John baptized Jesus. When Jesus stood up, the heavens were opened. He saw the Spirit of God descending upon Him in the bodily shape of a dove. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

John was a voice in the wilderness — not only in a desert but to the people of Israel. John did what God told him. Have you always done what Jesus wants you to do?

Brother Rudy Cover

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, THE BIBLE MADE PLAIN

Continued from October 1, 1978 issue of Bible Monitor

Verses 14 through 19 give the account of the fourth day's creation, which is the "sun", "moon", and the "stars". These are "lights in the firmament of heaven"; they have their purpose, which is to "divide the day from the night" and also "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years." They were also for the purpose of being "... lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth and it was so." Verse 16, "And God made two great lights (sun and moon); the greater light (the sun) to rule the day, and the lesser light (moon) to rule the night: he made the stars also." Verses 17 through 19 explain for us how these great lights function. Let us note them carefully!

We come now to the fifth day's creation, which is that of the living creatures, consisting of: fish, whales, winged fowl, and so forth. Gen. 1:20-23, The waters brought forth abundantly, of "...moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." Great whales, and every

living creature that moveth in the seas and all the creatures of the waters, as well as every winged fowl, brought forth after his kind and multiplied. "... and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day."

In the sixth day of God's creation, God created "... the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth . . . and it was so." "And God saw that it was good." Gen. 1:24-25. Also in the sixth day, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Although, we believe, God did not create the woman at the time he created man, yet He includes the woman as man, or in man, this is because He took the rib of man and made the woman. Hence, the woman came out of man, or became one with the man, of one flesh. Yet it seems He created the woman the sixth day. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." It is interesting to study and to know that, in God's creation of man, He made him in His own likeness, as a three-fold being, spirit, soul and body. I Thess. 5:23.

The remaining verses of Genesis 1, reveal how God gave to man the herbs, the fruit of the tree, and every herb, for his meat, his physical food. God then reviewed His work. "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Note: Divine Inspiration, through Moses, did not say when God blessed Adam and Eve and told them "to multiply and replenish the earth." We are not told whether He gave them this command at the time He made them, when he placed them in the garden, or whether it was after man's fall, when they were driven from the garden. Hence, we do not know if Eden was populated with any other people of God's creation, or if children were born unto them before they left the garden, or while they possessed the garden. We think no children were born to them while in the garden because of what God said to Eve in Gen. 3:16. However, we will leave this for our next chapter.

Brother William Root

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

As of November 1, 1978, the new address of Elder Ray S. Shank will be 213 West Main Street, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055 c/o Kraleys Senior Citizen Home. His new telephone number will be 717-697-9643.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The McClave Congregation is looking forward to a Revival meeting, starting Monday evening, October 23, 1978 and ending October 29, 1978, the Lord willing. Elder Allen Eberly of Ephrata, Pennsylvania will be our Evangelist. Please pray for these meetings.

There will be services Saturday, October 28 starting at 11 o'clock. The examination service will be at 2 o'clock, with the Lovefeast being at 7:30 in the evening.

We invite all who can to come enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Aurelia Wertz, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation, the Lord willing, will have their Communion Services October 28 and 29. The services will begin Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, continuing in the afternoon at 2 o'clock. Lovefeast proper will be Saturday evening. Services on Sunday.

We send a welcome to all who can come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Ruth Kleinhen, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 5 — "What is Truth?" John 18:28-40.

Nov. 12 — The Crucified Christ. John 19:1-30.

Nov. 19 — THANKSGIVING. Phil. 4:1-23.

Nov. 26 — Prophecy Fulfilled - The Burial of Jesus. John 19:31-42.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) What is truth? Pilate didn't know. Do you? John 14:6.
- (2) Pilate said to Jesus, "I have power to crucify and I have power to release thee." Did he? John 19:11-16.
- (3) Were there any women which labored with Paul in the Gospel? Phil. 4:3.
- (4) What prophecies were fulfilled when Christ was crucified? How many can you find?

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 1978

COVENANTS

Memory Verse: 2 Chron. 7:18

Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel.

Wed. 1-2 Chron. 7:1-22

Thur. 2-2 Chron. 13:1-22

Fri. 3-2 Chron. 15:1-19

Sat. 4-2 Chron. 21:1-20

Memory Verse: 2 Chron. 15:12

And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul:

Sun. 5-2 Chron. 23:1-21

Mon. 6-2 Chron. 29:1-19

Tues. 7-2 Chron. 29:20-36

Wed. 8-2 Chron. 30:1-27

Thur. 9-2 Chron. 31:1-21

Fri. 10-2 Chron. 34:1-13

Sat. 11-2 Chron. 34:14-33

Memory Verse: 2 Chron. 21:7

Howbeit the Lord would not destroy the house of David, Because of the covenant that he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever.

Sun. 12-Ezra 10:1-17

Mon. 13-Neh. 1:1-11

Tues. 14-Neh. 9:1-19

Wed. 15-Neh. 9:20-38

Thur. 16-Psa. 25:1-22

Fri. 17-Psa. 44:1-26

Sat. 18-Psa. 50:1-23

Memory Verse: Psa. 100:4

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Sun. 19-Psa. 55:1-23

Mon. 20-Psa. 74:1-23

Tues. 21-Psa. 78:1-24

Wed. 22-Psa. 78:25-48

Thur. 23-Psa. 107:1-22

Fri. 24-Psa. 78:49-72

Sat. 25-Psa. 89:1-26

Memory Verse: 2 Chron. 23:16

And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the Lord's people.

Sun. 26-Psa. 89:27-52

Mon. 27-Psa. 103:1-22

Tues. 28-Psa. 105:1-22

Wed. 29-Psa. 105:23-45

Thur. 30-Psa. 106:1-23

Memory Verses: Psa. 25:10

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Psa. 105:8-10

He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded unto a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:

Lester Fisher
4664 N. State Rte. 48
Covington, OH 45318

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

NOVEMBER 1, 1978

NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHITER THAN SNOW

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in my soul;
Break down ev'ry idol, cast out ev'ry foe;
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, look down from Thy throne in the skies,
And help me to make a complete sacrifice;
I give up myself, and whatever I know,
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat,
I wait, blessed Lord, at Thy crucified feet,
By faith, for my cleansing, I see Thy blood flow,
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, Thou seest I patiently wait,
Come now, and within me a new heart create;
To those who have sought Thee, Thou never saidst no,
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

— James Nicholson

UNHOLY SONS

The Old Testament tells of a number of sons who were products of unfaithfulness and sin. These sons, though the sons of faithful leaders of God's people, often proved to be the fiercest of God's enemies. These sons became the founders of nations which continually troubled the children of Israel.

Abraham is known as the "Father of the Faithful" but even his faith failed once. God had promised him a son and an innumerable family of descendants. This was at a time when he and Sarah were growing old and the opportunities for a son looked dim. Abraham's faith failed. He had a son by Hagar, Sarah's hand-maid. He tried by his own strength to do what God would perform later in His own power. This son, Ishmael, was not the son of promise. Eventually, after the birth of Isaac, Ishmael was driven from his father's house. The descendants of Ishmael from that time until today have been the bitter enemies of the Jews, Isaac's descendants. Because Abraham lacked faith in God's promise and was willing to engage in a sinful relationship, his descendants have had opposition throughout their history.

Abraham was not the last to choose his own way and thereby bring grief. Lot had not only pitched his tent toward Sodom but had actually moved into the city and had become a leading citizen. When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah Lot lost some of his family. His testimony, as a man of God, had been so tainted and tarnished that his sons-in-law would not give heed to his warning of impending doom. When Lot had finally made his escape, by incessant and forcible direction of the two angels, he was left only

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with his two virgin daughters. Because of the taint of Sodom's carnality upon his daughters' minds and because of the influence of the intoxicating drink, he committed incest with each of his daughters. A son was borne by each daughter.

The son of the elder daughter was Moab. He became the founder of the Moabite nation. Later the children of Israel, while on their wilderness journey, would be tempted to serve Baal when they came in contact with the descendants of Moab. Because of this ungodly influence, God's judgment fell upon Israel.

Lot's younger daughter bore a son named Ben-ammi. He became the founder of the Ammonites. The Ammonites especially troubled the Jews at the time when Saul was newly ordained king. The Ammonites were very fierce in their attack and proposed penalties to be imposed upon the Jews in Gilead. Because of sin and lowering of standards, Israel suffered time and again from these sons of Lot.

Lot's cousin Isaac became the father of twin sons, Esau and Jacob. By trick and connivance, Jacob inherited the blessings that should have belonged to Esau. Esau had been more interested in present material things than in the great birthright that should have been his. He was willing to trade the future blessings for a small bowl of pottage. He despised what should have been his, preferring the temporal blessings of life. Esau became the founder of the land of Edom. While the children of Israel journeyed toward the Promised Land they sought to cross Edom to shorten their journey. Although they promised to not stray from the highway and to leave untouched all the possessions of the land, their request was refused. Their journey around the borders of Edom was long, wearisome and discouraging. The Edomites as well as the descendants of the others mentioned continued to plague Israel. Especially in the time of the Judges were these various people used by God to try Israel when she failed to be faithful.

These unholy sons were the result of sin and the lack of faith. Today, just as in those long ago days, we will find that there is a price to pay. God's people were bothered by these nations which had been founded by the sons of the leaders of God's people. Indiscretions, drunkenness, faithlessness, and materialism led to these conditions. These sins and others will have the same result in men's lives today. These sins will not only have immediate results but will also persist.

The sins within your heart will plague you like the sins of Israel's leaders. Take a good look within your heart. If you find sin and error there, take it to God today and have it removed.

TWO PRAYER MEETINGS

"And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying." Acts 12:12. This first prayer meeting, God answered.

There was a need of prayer felt in the souls of believers. They were gathered together in a deep concern for believers. James had been slain, Peter had been put in prison and no human deliverance was available. "... But prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5. Verse 7, "And behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands."

The church assembled in the upper room, with one accord in prayer. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..." Acts 2:4. Peter and John were ordered by the authorities, not to preach Jesus any more. "But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to harken unto you more than unto God, judge ye." Acts 4:19. The prayer meeting gave them power with God. Today we have a great need for the Prayer Meeting. The fulfilling of prophecy and the falling away from the Faith is right before our eyes. Souls who once were true and faithful unto God, are being imprisoned and bound with fetters by Satan.

The Church needs to have a united Prayer Meeting, so the angel of God might come down and release those in sin from their chains and prison dungeon. We need a refilling of the Holy Ghost in the ministry, that they might have zeal for lost souls and for the churches where ministerial help is needed. We need a Prayer Meeting that will remove all ill will, bring union of heart and soul and allow Jesus to speak to us. At the close of the church age there will be united prayer meetings, there will be a proving time, then the Church will triumph.

There is an unseen space between God's patience and His wrath. Let us consider those who have crossed that space. This second Prayer Meeting was not heard by God. Read Rev. 6:15-17. Kings of the earth, leaders who have caused nations to forsake God, who have walked in ungodliness, men who have never attended a Prayer Meeting, will be praying in hell. There will be the great men, who receive honor of men for their ungodly inventions, evil fashions and evil pictures and the rich men, who put their trust in riches and are not rich towards God. Also the Chief Captains, advisers of evil, like Judas who conspired with the chief priests

about how he might betray Jesus. Mighty men, powerful, influential in persuading men to forsake God and bondmen bound by sin will be there. There is a fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversary. This includes free men, who have civil or political liberty. People say, "I want to live my own life, a good life, helping others, living honestly and peaceably, yet without God."

Are you a church leader teaching false doctrine? Are you a great man whom church-members follow, thereby blinding them from Christ? "If any man be great among you, let him be your servant." Are you the chief-leader or advisor? Does the vote of the church favor you or God who sitteth on the Throne? Are you a false professor? Do you claim to be following in all His ways and do not? Do you feel free from responsibility by burying your talent in a napkin? Do you cross the line into God's wrath and yet go to Prayer Meeting? Let us pray unto God, that the flame of living fire may come down, as it did upon the Saints of old.

LIVING FIRE

O for that flame of living fire,
Which shone so bright in saints of old;
Which bade their souls to heav'n aspire —
Calm in distress, in danger bold.
Where is that Spirit, Lord, which dwelt
In Abraham's breast, and sealed him thine?
Which made Paul's heart with sorrow melt,
And glow with energy divine?
That Spirit, which from age to age
Proclaimed thy love, and taught thy ways?
Brightened Isaiah's vivid page
And breathed in David's hallowed lays?
Is not thy grace as mighty now
As when Elijah felt its pow'r:
When glory beamed from Moses' brow;
Or Job endured the trying hour?
Remember, Lord, the ancient days;
Renew thy work; thy grace restore;
And while to thee our hearts we raise,
On us thy Holy Spirit pour.

#337 Brethren Hymnal

From a sermon by the late
Elder Herbert Parker

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"TEMPTED OF THE DEVIL"

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Have you ever been hungry? After Jesus was baptized, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness of the country of Judea. Here He fasted for forty days and forty nights. To fast means to go without food and not eat anything. After forty days Jesus was hungry. Forty days is a long time to fast. Jesus was out in the desert and without a thing to eat — just a lot of stones everywhere He looked. He was so weak and so hungry.

Satan, the devil, was an enemy to Jesus. He was jealous of Jesus and wanted to do something that would cause Jesus to sin. To sin means to disobey God. Seeing Jesus so weak and hungry, Satan thought, "Here's my chance." He said to Jesus, "If you be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."

Jesus could have done this very thing. How nice it would be to see loaves of bread all over the desert. Then there would be plenty to eat and Jesus would get His strength and feel good. Surely, He deserved to eat after fasting forty days. But what did Jesus say? "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Jesus knew He was the Son of God and didn't have to prove it by obeying Satan, even if He was hungry.

Jesus didn't fall for Satan's temptation to eat but that didn't stop Satan. Satan doesn't give up easily. He knew Jesus was weak and tired, so he tried something else. Satan is a powerful being. He took Jesus up to Jerusalem and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple. A pinnacle is a high tower. I don't think Jesus liked to be up there at all. He was so weak and needed food so badly. There sure wasn't any food on that pinnacle. The devil said to Him, "If you be the Son of God, cast yourself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest... you dash your foot against a stone." The devil can quote scripture too.

All Jesus would have had done was to jump and the angels would have seen that He landed on the ground without a scratch. What did Jesus say? "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." To obey Satan was to doubt that Jesus was the Son of God and this would be tempting God. Satan was tempting God because Jesus was God.

Once again Jesus overcame. Satan must have thought, "I know what will tempt Jesus. I'll give Him everything." The devil took

Jesus up into a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. What a wonderful sight this must have been! Satan said, "All this power will I give you and the glory of them. All these things will I give thee, if you fall down and worship me." How wonderful it would be to have control of all the kingdoms of the world — to have it right now: the best of food and luxury beyond the imagination! But Satan wanted Jesus to worship him. By doing this Jesus would acknowledge that Satan was greater than He. Jesus said, "Get thee away Satan, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

When Jesus told Satan to go, Satan had to go. Jesus was the greater and Satan had no power to resist the power of God. After Satan left Jesus, what do you think happened? The Bible says that angels came and ministered unto Jesus. I suppose they gave Him the best of food and strengthened Him by the power of God.

What a wonderful Jesus we have! He overcame Satan in every way and showed us how to overcome when we are tempted. We can do like Jesus and always rely on God's Word. That's the one thing Satan cannot overcome. When we obey God, Satan is powerless. "...Greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world."

Brother Rudy Cover

LAZY MAN'S LOAD

My mother often used the term, "that's a lazy man's load." It was a long time before I really knew what she meant. I couldn't see what was lazy about handling a load which was too large. The lesson was that you were too lazy to make two trips. When you carried it all at once, that indicated that you did not want to be bothered with making a second trip, even though good sense told you to do so. Thus it became an overwhelming burden, a "lazy man's load."

How often do we think like this when witnessing to someone? We want to get the job done right away. We can't wait for them to have a chance to think carefully about their soul's need, so we give them the whole load at once. When they are overwhelmed by it, we just can't understand why. Even though we know we should, we don't want to take time to make another trip or two or three to talk with them. We take a "lazy man's load" to them, giving them so much of God's Word at once that it only causes bewilderment and often, resentment and rejection.

When you feed a baby, you don't give him a whole day's supply of food at one time. You give the amount he is hungry for and the

type of food that his body can digest, according to his age and state of health. Someone who knows little or nothing about God and Christ needs his spiritual food doled out, too, according to what he can grasp and what he is hungry for at that time. No matter how important the truths are, he or she cannot grasp everything at once and giving too much only causes a problem.

"The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary." Isa. 50:4a. It takes alot of wisdom to know when you should speak and you must rely on the Holy Spirit to tell you that. The next step is just as important — STOP when you've said enough! Resist the urge to keep sharing about Jesus and pressuring someone when the Spirit says it's enough for now. Faith does come by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, but hearing the Word alone doesn't bring a person to Christ. A seeker is drawn to Christ through the wooing of the Spirit, and He knows what that heart needs each step of the way. Let Him guide you.

"Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." I Peter 3:15b. Various points in God's Word may be so plain and clear to you that you can't see why others can't grasp it. But to them, it may seem like just so many words. Until the Spirit reveals the truth to a person's heart, you must be patient, kind and understanding. There is no room for haughtiness or high pressure tactics. It is not your job to bring conviction; it is not your job to push your own personal notions off on someone else. Just share Jesus with the one you are directed to; the Holy Spirit will take care of the rest.

Jesus was really sharp with the scribes and Pharisees, but He was kind to the uneducated masses. Why? The scribes and Pharisees were well-educated, they knew the law but had replaced the law of God with their own traditions. They did not want the truth, but Jesus knew the common people did, and He gave them the Truth in a way that they could grasp it. He didn't expect them to learn it all at once. We need to remember this when we try to help someone. Jesus often used parables in His teaching. He didn't overwhelm people with the context anymore than He did with the quantity of Truth given at once.

How can you witness without taking a "lazy man's load" to someone? Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." You must first follow Him before you can help anyone. Now what about the fishing? What takes more time and patience? Fishing lures or bait is used to attract the fish. The Christian's bait is love — God's soul-saving love. "But to do good and to communicate forget not." Heb. 13:16a. Communicate what? Again it's love, the message of Christ.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psa. 126:5-6. This means total involvement, a genuine concern. It is not a haphazard, lazy man's way of harvesting. It means doing plenty of praying while sowing, just telling isn't enough. "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35b. It means also to look, pay attention to the needs. You can't help unless you know what the needs are.

"For I was a hungered,... I was thirsty,... I was a stranger,... naked,... I was sick,... I was in prison" and ye ignored me? No! Matt. 25:35 says each need was supplied. Again this means total involvement. It means taking time to analyze the situation and then take action according to the need. It is not a "hurry up and get it over with" proposition. "And he brought him to Jesus." John 1:42a. This is the end result of patient, loving concern, not of one high-pressure session of witnessing about Jesus. Take a "love load" to someone now, not a "lazy man's load."

Sister Eileen Broadwater

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1. Are we really glad and count going to church a privilege, or is it, "Oh my, church already again?" Seeing the attendance, or rather lack of it, at a recent prayer meeting, I just had to wonder. On a typical week, we may spend seven hours in church. Seven hours out of a total of one hundred sixty-eight, and we can't make it. Oh yes, Sunday morning attendance is usually good, but what about Sunday evenings and prayer meetings? They're all meetings to worship God. Is it not our responsibility to be there?

What keeps us from church? Too busy? Work too late? Children are fussy? Didn't feel very good? Got home too late? How we let the temporal things of this life interfere with our spiritual life. I'm fearful our excuses may look rather foolish before God.

Sometimes when children miss too much school, the truant officer comes around to see if they're really sick. What would God find should He send someone to see why we're absent from church? Reading the evening paper? playing a game? or working in the garden? Let us remember, God's all-seeing eye does see what we're doing. There are legitimate reasons for missing church, but let's not grow too lax. It seems if one misses too much, that the conscience may become seared and may no longer care whether he comes or not.

Must our privilege be taken away for awhile to help us realize how valuable it is? Sickness or injury can keep us out of church for many weeks. Then, isn't it a joyous occasion when we can go again? Just talk to some of our disabled or old folks; how they long for a visit to church. Even more seriously, what if our government would deny us religious freedom? When we have the freedom of choice and choose not to go, I'm afraid the government wouldn't have to use much force to keep many at home. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.

What kind of an example are we setting for our children? We are responsible for developing in their minds an attitude, one which may very rule through-out their lives. It won't help much to teach them to go to church, if we don't follow our teaching.

"Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth." Psalms 26:8. We should value our time spent, "where His honour dwelleth," and where we can have fellowship with Brethren and Sisters. When a temporal meal is prepared, we generally sit down and partake of it. Likewise, let us be present when the spiritual table is set and the Bread of Life is broken, so we can receive food for our souls for another week.

If we're too busy or too tired to go to church, just maybe we're too busy to go to heaven. Or if it gets too late, just maybe we'll be too late to step inside those pearly gates. Might we say as the Psalmist David: "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple." Psalms 27:4.

In Christian Love,
Sister Delores Stuber

FROM THE DIARY OF A BIBLE

- January 15 - I've been resting quietly for a week. The first few nights after New Year's Day my owner read me regularly. But now I guess I've been forgotten.
- February 2 - Clean-up day! I was dusted along with some other things - but was put back on the shelf.
- February 24 - Owner used me for a short time after breakfast. Looked up a few verses. Went to Sunday School.
- April 10 - I was dusted today and put on the center table in the sitting room. Special company was here, but now I'm back on the shelf again.

- May 12 - Busy day. My owner had to lead a devotional lesson and had to look up some references. Had quite a time finding me, and then hunted and hunted to find those references.
- June 5 - I'm here in Grandma's lap. She's here on a visit. She let a tear fall on Colossians 2:5-7.
- June 6 - In Grandma's lap again. She has spent most of her time reading I Corinthians 13 and the last four verses of the 15th chapter.
- June 7-9 - I've been in Grandma's lap each afternoon. It is such a comfort to be appreciated and loved. She reads me part of the time, and then just sits and talks to me.
- June 10 - Grandma is gone and I'm back in the same old place. She kissed me before she left.
- July 4 - Had a couple of four-leaf clovers stuck in me today.
- August 1 - Packed in a suitcase with clothes. Off on a vacation, I guess.
- August 7 - Still in the suitcase.
- August 12 - Still in the suitcase although everything else has been in and out many times. Other things first, I guess.
- August 15 - Home again and on the shelf. Quite a journey. Can't see why I went.
- September 3 - Rather stuffy and hot. Two magazines, a novel and an old hat are on top of me.
- October 18 - Used by Mary a few minutes today.
- November 10 - Was carried to church today and held up to be counted.
- December 16 - Dusty again. I'm lonesome. Wish Grandma would come and visit again.
- December 31 - Tomorrow I expect to have a knife run into me by each member of the family blindfolded in turn and then a finger placed on a "good-luck" verse. (Suppose a finger rests on John 5:39 or Matthew 4:4 or Hosea 4:6).

— Selected

Dear Christian Friends,

While writing this piece for the Monitor, I happened to wonder just how much do we care for, read and value our Bible. Are we like this owner who left it on the shelf and sometimes took it on vacation but never opened it! The Bible teaches us to "search the scriptures daily". Our days should never be so busy that we don't

take time out for God. Someone once said, "The Bible is the traveler's map." How then can we trod onward and upward without reading God's WORD? To many people in the world we are their Bible. They can read us by our actions and conduct in our everyday living. May we always strive to keep God's Word near and dear to us each day of our lives.

In Christian Love,
Sister Shirley Frick
Lewisburg, Ohio

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, THE BIBLE MADE PLAIN

PART 2

In Part 1 of this series we were studying the first Dispensation of the world, the "Edenic Dispensation" or the Dispensation of innocence. God created "man" in His own image and likeness, without sin, hence man was innocent of any transgression until his fall and banishment from the Garden of Eden.

Let us now proceed with our study of this first Dispensation. We turn to Gen. 2:1-3, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." These verses tell only what God did and there was no commandment to man given in them. Sabbatarians claim this second verse gives authority for keeping the seventh day as a day of worship. However, the seventh day Sabbath was given to Israel on Mount Sinai in the Law of Moses, many years after the Creation. Nevertheless, Moses says here that the Lord set the seventh day apart or sanctified and hallowed it, because He had rested therein. Hence, seven seems to be a perfect number in the Word of God.

In the first chapter of Genesis we have the full account of the creation, showing what God had done while in the second chapter we have the record of how He created. Gen. 2:4-6, "These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day (time or days) that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens." Evidently, Moses, who wrote the book of Genesis as well as the book of the Exodus, had in mind when he recorded the "day" that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, that he was referring to the six days of the creation, else he would be contradicting himself in writing Exod. 20:11, which reads as follows, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: where-

fore the Lord blessed the sabbath day (that is after the Sabbath day was given to His people), and hallowed it." Let us not forget the Sabbath day was instituted or commanded long after this creation of the seventh day, recorded in Genesis. The Sabbath day, after there was a Sabbath day, was a rest day or a day of rest, symbolized by God's seventh day of rest. Now, the first day of the week is the day to meet for worshipping the Lord, one day in seven.

We see that the time it took God to make all His creation was six days, just as outlined in the first chapter of Genesis, in which account we have seen that the length of each day is, "light and darkness," or "night and day." Therefore, when the Word speaks of the day of Creation, we think it is not speaking of the "day of the Lord," a day known only to the Lord, a day as a thousand years, or a thousand years as one day, II Pet. 3:8; Zech. 14:6-7. If it would have taken the Lord 6,000 years, more or less, to make His creation, then He would have rested 1,000 years, more or less, as the seventh day. We think that this is not true, but that the length of those six days was just as recorded above, six days of "darkness and light," six creation days, as it were of twenty-four hours each.

There have been many theories advanced by men concerning the Creation. Shall we believe the inspired Word of God, or shall we believe the theories of men? Let us look at the meaning of the word theory. What is it? It is the opposite of fact. "It is a doctrine (teaching) or scheme of things, which terminates in speculation or contemplation, without view to practice." What is a fact? A fact is, "Anything done, an act or deed, reality, truth, actuality or a true account." We can surely rely upon the Holy Scriptures for actuality or truth, concerning God's Creation. Moses said it took God six days to make "heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is."

Philosophers of so-called science come to us with the theory that this did not mean six days (as we count time), darkness and light, night and day, but that it means a period of time, extending perhaps thousands or millions of years. Hence, they advance the theory that God created three earths. That the first created earth was destroyed, or became chaotic or void. Then God re-created it and re-inhabited it into the "Edenic" earth. They call this original, first mentioned, earth (as they say) "alpha", the beginning of the "creative ages." But how do men know this? They do not. It is only their substitution, supposition and guess work, based only upon inference or theory and does not harmonize with the Holy Bible.

For proof of their pre-Edenic, or what they call the original earth, they mis-apply two Scriptural references to fit their theory, Gen. 1:1; II Pet. 3:6-7. For proof of what they call the second (chaotic) earth they quote Gen. 1:2. For proof of the creation of this present

earth, or what they call a restored earth, they quote Gen. 1:3 and Gen. 2:3. We are sure that the Apostle Peter was not referring to a pre-Edenic or a pre-existing, original earth in the reference given above, but was speaking of the present earth, when the world was destroyed by water, "standing out of the water and in the water," at the "flood" or "deluge." We are likewise sure that the other references have no reference to any such theory, as mentioned above. Therefore we cannot accept the "philosophers" theory, concerning the creation of the earth. Let us note: What is philosophy? It is literally the love of wisdom. There are two kinds of wisdom, true "wisdom" which God gives us, and worldly wisdom, the wisdom of men, which will come to naught and pass away, which is of Satan and is "sensual and devilish." I Cor. 2:4-7.

— To be continued
Brother William Root

MARRIAGES

KEGERREIS-NOECKER

Sister Shelia Kegerreis, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Harold Kegerreis, R.D., Bethel, Pennsylvania and Bro. Paul Noecker II, son of Bro. and Sis. Paul Noecker, R.D., Auburn, Pennsylvania were united in marriage August 19, 1978 at the Dunkard Brethren Church, Frystown, Pennsylvania. The ceremony was conducted by Elder James Kegerreis after a sermon by Bro. David Kegerreis. Elder David Ebling conducted the opening devotions. The couple will reside at Lonz Ave., Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania 17961.

KEENEY-NOECKER

Sister Darlene Keeney, daughter of Brother and Sister Norman Keeney, Jr., R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania and Brother Samuel Noecker, Jr., son of Brother and Sister Samuel Noecker, Sr., R. 1, Auburn, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage, September 2, 1978 at the home of Norman Keeney, Jr. The ceremony was performed by Elder David Ebling. The couple will reside at R. 3, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 17356.

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation of Ceres, California is holding their Love Feast on the 11th and 12th of November. A hearty invitation is extended to come and be with us.

Sister Edyth Kline, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation experienced another spiritual revival August 20 through 27 with Bro. Robert Carpenter, Plevna, Indiana as evangelist. He gave us nine helpful and uplifting sermons. We were also glad to have Sis. Carpenter and their son with us.

We were happy to have eight visiting ministers at our Love Feast: our presiding Elder David Ebling and Elder James Kegerreis of Bethel Congregation; Elder Frank Shaffer, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania; Bro. Virgil Leatherman, Walnut Grove, Maryland; Elder Otto Harris, Ridge, West Virginia; Elder Eugene Kauffman, Dayton, Virginia; Elder William Carpenter, West Fulton, Ohio; and Bro. Robert Carpenter, who presided at the Love Feast.

We appreciated the visitors from ten congregations. Forty-six Brethren and Sisters surrounded the Lord's table.

It was encouraging to have you. Please come whenever you can. Our regular services are every Sunday except fifth Sunday. We can only thank you for your help, but God can bless you.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

THANK YOU

It is impossible to thank all of you personally, so I take this means to thank all the Brothers, Sisters and friends for your gifts, prayers, cards, letters and acts of kindness shown to me while I was in the hospital and while convalescing at home.

May God richly bless each one of you for your concern and thoughtfulness.

Sister Elaine Leatherman

We would take this opportunity to thank the many for their concern shown during the illness of our daughter, Elaine. The many telephone calls and letters of inquiry and encouragement. The many prayers for us as a family, and those who have given gifts. We are most deeply appreciative for these many gestures of kindness. We thank you sincerely and pray God's richest blessing may be upon you, each one.

Brother Charles and Sister
Maxine Leatherman



It is costly to accept, but it is far more costly to reject.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 22

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GREAT GOD OF NATIONS

Great God of nations, now to thee
Our hymn of gratitude we raise;
With humble heart and bending knee
We offer thee our song of praise.
Thy name we bless, Almighty God,
For all the kindness thou hast shown
To this fair land the pilgrims trod —
This land we fondly call our own.
Here Freedom spreads her banner wide,
And casts her soft and hallowed ray;
Here thou our fathers' steps didst guide
In safety through their dangerous way.
We praise thee that the gospel's light
Through all our land its radiance sheds,
Dispels the shades of error's night,
And heavenly blessings round us spreads.
Great God, preserve us in thy fear;
In dangers still our Guardian be;
O, spread thy truth's bright precepts here;
Let all the people worship thee.

— Selected

PIOUS PROCLAMATIONS

The Thanksgiving season is again upon us. During this time of the year it is customary for us to speak of the various things for which we need to thank God. As the summer fades into our memories and the harvest has been sold or put aside for our future use, we can take a little time to express our thanks to the Lord for our abundant blessings.

One day is especially set aside by the President's Proclamation for a time of thanksgiving. This day is observed not only by Christians but the world also. Speeches are made concerning our duty of thankfulness; flowery phrases are spoken about the gifts given to us. With many grandiose words, leaders will issue their papers calling the nation to thanksgiving. For all the speeches and grand ideals promoted in the interest of thankfulness, how much true thankfulness will there be? To most in the world, Thanksgiving has become a day of feasting, football and frivolity. The common designation of the day, "Turkey Day," tells much about the spirit in which people celebrate the day. The words spoken concerning this day become very empty and insincere.

This emptiness and insincerity we would expect to find in the world, which is under the dominion of the "father of lies." How about Christians? Are the words of Christians concerning Thanksgiving, the true feelings of their hearts or are they empty words? All in this land, especially, have much to be thankful for. It would be difficult to list all the temporal blessings which have been showered upon us. Beyond these common blessings, the Christian has received blessings much greater and deeper than those

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received by the world. The Christian's blessings are eternal, bought with the blood of Jesus Christ. The Christian has so much to be thankful for, yet how often is his worship and praise merely empty forms and words?

Looking beyond Thanksgiving and the other holidays which the world has emptied of their true meaning and purpose, are there other parts of the Christian's witness which have become empty? It is possible that Christians can speak of salvation, holy living, Heaven and even of Jesus and God in a way that though pleasant in sound and orthodox in content may actually be empty words. These words sound good and Biblical, yet the Christian using them has no more feeling for their true meaning than the world's appreciation of Thanksgiving Day.

One of the warnings given by Jude concerning those, who, though in the Church, were not truly in sympathy with the teachings of the New Testament, was that they would speak "great swelling words." These apostates would speak about Christianity yet their hearts were not really in their words. They resembled Pharisees, whom Jesus called "whited sepulchres." On the outside they were religious but inwardly they were corrupt.

The heritage, doctrines and practices that we know so well and speak of so easily are ever in danger of becoming empty words and forms. If they are spoken of as great things but our hearts do not really feel their necessity or value, then they have become empty forms. If we do not consider them to be vital to a Christian life then our words, even though outwardly in favor of Biblical Christianity, are "swelling" words.

Not a one of us would deliberately tell a lie, yet how many times do we speak of thankfulness or love for Jesus or spreading of the Gospel, yet our hearts are not really in it? We speak the words. We repeat the thoughts. How often do the New Testament doctrines become hidden because we do not want to offend anyone? So we speak "swelling" words about Jesus or love or God, just saying enough to be well thought of but not enough to cause the loss of men's admiration.

Are you really thankful this Thanksgiving? Or even at other times besides this one special day? Are you careful that your Christianity is not merely empty words and forms? To be prepared for an abundant entrance into Heaven we must have a life here that is true and wholly dedicated to serving Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

WATER INTO WINE!

John 2:1-12

Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding. Jesus' mother was there too. It was at the town of Cana in Galilee. In those days they drank wine at weddings and for some reason at this wedding, they didn't have enough wine. Maybe more guests came than they had expected. Anyway it was embarrassing to not have enough for the guests to drink. The mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

Jesus hadn't done any miracles yet but somehow Mary knew Jesus could solve the problem. She told the servants, "Whatever He saith unto you, do it."

There were six waterpots of stone containing two or three firkins apiece. A firkin is a little over ten gallons so these waterpots would hold twenty to thirty gallons. They were made to hold water for washing and cleaning after the way the Jews did then. At this time they were apparently empty. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the waterpots with water." They filled them to the brim. Then Jesus said, "Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast."

I wonder if those servants thought: "Does Jesus think that water is going to please these guests?" But they did as Jesus said and took the water to the governor of the feast. Some people think the governor of the feast was a priest who supervised the feast and saw that everyone was supplied with food and drink. He also would see that order and decency was observed. Marriage was honorable under the law and still is today, when we invite Jesus to be with us.

The governor of the feast didn't know about the waterpots being filled with water but the servants did. They were the ones who put the water into the pots. When the governor tasted the water that the servants brought, it wasn't water anymore. What do you think he did? The governor of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but you have kept the good wine until now!" I suppose that was the best wine that man ever tasted.

I wonder what the servants thought? They knew they put water into the waterpots but when they took it out it became wine. How could this be? Water into wine?

Jesus can do anything. Do you want Him to come into your life and make you into something far better than you are now? He can change your life so it will be a glory to God. Let Jesus come into your heart now! It will be the greatest thing that ever happened to you.

Brother Rudy Cover

THANK GOD FOR THE LITTLE THINGS

Have you ever heard someone say "thank God for the little things in life?" Maybe what he or she was thankful for at that moment didn't seem like much to you, but sometimes even minor things can be very special. Think of an hour or two spent with a close friend, or a little gift from someone when you least expected it. Think of some little blessing from God, which even though minor, came at just the right moment and gave you the lift that you needed. There are many little things to thank God for.

Did you ever notice where a minor circumstance protected you from one of the Devil's attacks? Or maybe it prevented you from getting involved in a bad situation. In the life of a Christian, even the little things are planned by God. His divine care is not just an accident or good luck. It is so easy to thank God for the big events in life which turn out well, but how about the little things? It is good that we thank God in these matters as well. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalms 100:4. Being thankful is a vital part of the believer's walk. God expects us to be thankful, He wants us to be thankful and we need to be thankful. He is good to us in so many little ways, as well as in the more obvious ones. When you realize what all God does for you, how could you not be thankful from your heart for His goodness toward you? You can't repay God in any way for what He provides for you, but you can thank Him for it.

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High." Psalms 50:14. Without genuine thankfulness and appreciation, it is very difficult to serve the Lord and keep the promises you've made to Him. Whenever you can't appreciate your situation or your work, your responsibilities will only seem like a drudgery. When you are thankful, you are happy, and your responsibilities will seem like a privilege. Especially in the Lord's work, you need a thankful heart even in the little things, lest serving Him becomes a burden to you.

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." Psalms 95:2. When you are thankful, say so! Don't keep it to yourself. Your thankfulness will brighten the day of everyone your life touches. A complainer only adds to one's weariness — no one is helped by complaining. Your life does not need to be perfect before you can be thankful. There are many little favors, many little things to be thankful for if we look

for them. A truly thankful heart will do just that. The little things will be noticed and a reason given for being thankful.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6. Prayer and thankfulness go together. If you cannot be thankful for the little things you already have, how can you be thankful if God gives you something else in answer to your request? Thankfulness has to start with what you already have.

Trust, rather than anxiety, is also evident when we are thankful. Our thankfulness shows that we are not going to worry, but we're trusting God to give us whatever is best. He has told us to bring our requests to Him — with thanksgiving. This means with a heart that is thankful for what we already have. It means a heart that is thankful for the prayers already answered. It means that rather than wasting our time fretting, we are contented.

"... And he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them." They also had a few small fishes which Jesus blessed and the disciples served. See Mark 8:6-7. This wasn't much to work with to meet the needs of four thousand hungry people, but it was more than enough when God blessed it. Using the meager supply faithfully became a spectacular success. God may not give you much to work with either, but use what He gives. Be thankful for it and the results will surely multiply.

"... I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes..." Luke 10:21. Jesus was thankful that God saw fit to reveal His will to those with limited understanding. You don't need to be a genius to understand God's Word, and you, too, should be thankful for that. You will never grasp it all, but God will give you sufficient understanding so you can serve Him. Be thankful for the understanding He gives you, then use it.

If we sat around and waited for something spectacular to be thankful for, we might not ever be thankful. Most of us are quite ordinary and so are our lives. Our blessings may seem ordinary too, but that doesn't mean we have nothing to be thankful for. Be thankful for all that God does for you, whether it's a little blessing or a big one. His purpose is to bring out the best in you, so be thankful — even for the little things.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two —
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there —
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But—when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder—if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books
you read,

And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?
Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

— Lois Kendall Blanchard
Selected

Do we live each day to the fullest and keep God first in our lives?
Do we live in luxury or just have the necessary things of life? Be
truthful with yourself and examine your heart that your home and
heart may be clean and garnished when Jesus comes.

Luke 12:40, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man
cometh at an hour when ye think not."

Sister Shirley Frick
Lewisburg, Ohio

SOUTH FULTON

"CRISIS OF CHOICE"

Text: II Chron. 28:22-27

A sermon by Bro. Paul Blocher

We come to many crises in life. As we choose, so we live. As we have chosen, good or bad, so the day of judgment or reward comes upon us. As we think of different crises, we think of the Israelites. How often they rejected God, then returned to Him only to reject Him again and revert to worship with the heathen.

King Ahaz was an evil king. He sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which were the ruin of him and all Israel. This shows the results of the choice of an individual who did things contrary to God. He no longer made holy sacrifices but cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, cast them aside, erected idols and burned incense. He provoked God to anger, he didn't repent and he died.

II Kings 18:1 tells of Hezekiah the son of Ahaz. We often hear it said, "like father, like son." Hezekiah could have followed his father in idol worship but he reasoned and chose differently. He tore down the very things his father erected, cut down the groves and worshipped the true God.

The brazen serpent that Moses made was broken in pieces because they were burning incense to it and worshipping it. When God instructed Moses to make the fiery serpent it was not to be worshipped, but to heal those who were bitten by serpents, when they looked upon it. There are to be no other gods before Him. Our God is a jealous God. He demands our praise and service.

Joshua 24:15, "... Choose you this day whom ye will serve... the gods of the Amorites... or the Lord." The Lord drove out all their enemies and Joshua tells the people, "... Ye cannot serve the Lord: for He is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If ye forsake the Lord, and serve strange gods, he... will do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good." The people told Joshua, "Nay; but we will serve the Lord."

They had come to the crisis of choosing to serve the true God who had wonderfully preserved them. This is something we need to think about much. We read history and see where the children of Israel made mistakes. Daily, WE must choose to worship God or reject Him and hear the devil and his promotions.

Adam and Eve had a chance to hear God, but the devil promoted a thought to Eve that she could be equal to God. She reached a

crisis — she ate of the fruit and gave some to her husband. Now man must reap the consequences of that disobedience to God. Our whole history would have been different if Adam and Eve had chosen to reject the devil's promotion.

The devil tries to discourage us from worship when there are only two or three. God's people have always been in the minority. The majority are not always right.

Most of us come from homes where righteousness was taught. Some homes have not had the Word of God or prayer, yet some from godless homes make a choice and come to God and follow the living Word. Let us be careful to choose our destination. If we have not lived holily and righteously, we will not be recognized by God.

When Hezekiah became sick unto death he was told to set his house in order "... for thou shalt die, and not live." But he prayed to God to remember how he had walked before Him in truth and had done that which was good. The Lord heard his prayer and saw his tears and said, "behold, I will heal thee... and will add unto thy days fifteen years and... deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria..." Because of Hezekiah's obedience, he had a good foundation on which to beseech God for a blessing.

Has our obedience been such that in prayer we can say we have walked before God in truth or do we always have to repent of sins? Yet God hears and heals a penitent heart.

Of the spies sent out into the land of Canaan, two gave a good report saying, "We can overcome the land by faith and possess it." Each of us comes to a crisis of choice. How would we react if we had a vote before us, when two said, "let us worship, hold fast and carry on to keep the church doors open," but ten said, "close the doors"? What would we do?

Those who murmur most fall in the wilderness, like those in Israel, who listened to the ten. Those of the new generation would enter the land of milk and honey who listened to the two.

We sometimes come to the same place and can't see over our mistakes, like the Israelites who feared the giants. Some choose well. Some choose wrongly as did Felix when he reasoned with Paul, the great missionary. Maybe Felix was intemperate and Paul was calling his attention to the teaching that there would be a reckoning day. He tried to convince Felix to do away with the old and renew his life. What is the choice Felix made? Felix trembled at Paul's words. They bothered him. But he made a sad choice, "I will call for thee at a later time."

Many reason along the same theme. They come to the time their

conscience is condemning them yet they choose as Felix did — “go thy way.”

Procrastination is the thief of time. If we haven't been saved by the time we come to the age to know right from wrong and we know we should hear God, we come to that point of time to chose and not put off as Felix did. We have no record that he ever repented.

Paul later was relating his life to Agrippa — how he persecuted the church, was converted and was now serving the God he once rejected. How did Agrippa react to the same choice that Felix had? Agrippa said, “Almost thou persuadest me to be a christian.” Here we have two who chose unwisely. “Almost” is but to be lost.

We think of the jailor who put the two Apostles in chains and stocks. He saw the power of holy men and said, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul taught him what he must do. He and his household chose wisely. Faith, confession and baptism are very important things in life.

The Hebrew children had a crucial choice: worship God or an image. They said they would “worship God and Him only shall we serve.” The king said, “if ye worship not the image ye shall be cast into the fiery furnace.” How would we react if our faith were tested in such a manner? Would we choose God or the image for fear of the fire?

The Hebrew children said, “... we are not careful to answer thee in this matter... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, And... out of thine hand, O King. But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” Is our faith that strong? We are glad for their history — it is encouraging to us. It was a consolation to them that the God, whom they knew and trusted, would save them in Heaven if they perished in the fire. The fire did not touch them, neither was the smell of fire on them. They successfully passed the crisis.

Daniel was put to the test by cunning, crafty men who wanted to have him put out of favor with King Darius and to be slain in the lion' den. They knew he would continue to praise his God so they made a decree that if any were found praying, he was to be put into the den of lions. Daniel knew about the decree but he kneeled, as aforetime, three times a day to pray and give thanks to his God. The King had no choice. He put Daniel in the den of lions. Daniel knew he had a crisis, he knew the king had little to offer but he knew also that his God had much to offer. He chose to pray. Prayer is a vital life line. Without prayer we cannot be Christians. Prayer is our way of help from God.

The Apostles were beaten and told not to preach in the name of Jesus. Did they say, "Alright, we will save our lives and not speak of Jesus anymore?" No! They said, "We ought to obey God rather than man." A wonderful exhortation to us.

When people don't want to hear about salvation, do we still hold forth the name of Jesus to a dying world? We should all have a desire to be an ambassador of Christ.

Judas came to a crisis of choice. He could choose money and betray the Master or he could choose Christ. Jesus knew he had a bad spirit. We think it is hard but it was necessary to fulfill prophesy. When Judas saw innocent blood shed, he did not want the money. He hanged himself and added sin to sin. When we sin we are to repent and ask forgiveness.

Because of the plot to slay all Israel, Queen Esther must choose the risk of her own death or the life of her people. She was spared death; her petition was granted and the Jewish people were not slain. Her crucial time was to appear before the king unbidden. She said, "And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."

When individuals choose wisely and go in faith God will be with them. No matter how strong we are, we all have weak points. King Hezekiah was a strong man and a good king but he had a weak point. He sang his song of thanksgiving to God for saving his life and adding fifteen years, but his pride in his presents of silver and gold, spices and precious ointment and all manner of treasures was his weak point. How much better if he had magnified God instead of himself.

As long as we exalt ourselves God will give us a downfall. King Hezekiah failed the crisis of prosperity. Prosperity is the enemy of the Church. In the land flowing with milk and honey the Israelites forgot God.

As the crisis of choice comes to us will we adhere to God or to the devil's offerings? I believe if we look to God and Christ as author and finisher of our faith we will receive a blessing for obedience.

Choose ye this day whom ye will serve and hold to Him and serve Him if it be the Lord Jesus.

Sister Elta K. Blythe

822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Ill. 61455



Make me a match that can kindle a fire.

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, THE BIBLE MADE PLAIN

Continued from November 1, 1978 issue of Bible Monitor

In modern acceptation "philosophy" may be defined as: "that which is accepted by man, as: the universal science, which aims at the explanation of all the phenomena of the universe by ultimate causes; the knowledge of phenomena as explained by, and resolved into causes and reasons, powers and laws." These "causes, reasons, powers and laws" are supplied by man's wisdom, which make them, many times, more theory than fact. "Philosophy," when applied to any particular department of knowledge, denotes the collection of general laws and principles, under which all the subordinate phenomena or facts relating to that subject are comprehended. So we see, those laws and principles must be supplied by facts, and not built upon theory, before it can be applied to true knowledge. Further, "philosophy" is hypothesis or the system on which natural effects are explained; a particular philosophical system or theory. So, we believe the Holy Bible begins the origin, or Creation, at the beginning of the first day God created, Gen. 1:1-3. Therefore, the first two chapters of the book of Genesis give a true and accurate account of the full creation of all things, as described in our Part One. And man was given dominion over all of them.

Before we go farther in our study of the "Edenic Dispensation," which in time extends from the "creation" to the "fall," let us note the following: There are three places of abode mentioned in the Bible, "heaven, earth and hell." In addition to the "Triune God," there is another specific person or spirit mentioned, which is the devil or Satan. Hence, we have four superior spirits. Commentators point out, that there are three classes of people mentioned in the Bible. They say "Jews, Gentiles and the Church." We consider only two, "Gentiles and Israelites" (which compose the Jews) and which both are included in the Church. See Gal. 3:29. Paul says there is no difference between the two, as pertaining to the inheritance of the "Father's," if we belong to Christ.

God's promise to Abraham and to his "seed" will be fully fulfilled in Christ and His Church. We understand that the Church is the first stage, or period, of the kingdom of God (kingdom of heaven) existing here on the earth throughout the Church age before the earth's renovation by fire at Christ's Second Coming.

We are discussing the first "age," as well as the first "Dispensation" of the world, at the beginning (the creation), the beginning of the "Edenic Dispensation" or man's innocence, before his dis-

obedience and "fall." We believe the first "age" extended from the creation and "fall of man" to the deluge or flood. We understand that this first Dispensation covers the time the first man and woman lived in the garden of "Eden". Just how long the man and the woman lived in the garden is not known to man. We read in Gen. 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." This verse tells how God created (made) man, the when was in the sixth creation day as shown above. Also we learned from chapter 1:27, that God created "female" (woman) including her as man (or mankind). The verse there in chapter one, only recorded the "creation" but did not tell how she was created. Also we read, "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." Gen. 2:8.

Now, because of what is stated in Gen. 1:27, commentators have theories that children were born to Adam and Eve, while they lived in the garden, as it is stated there, in the account of the sixth day's creation, that God "blessed" them and said to them "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..." Some say that the word "replenish" indicates that the earth, or some other earth, had been previously populated. Why so? We understand that there were only two people populating the Edenic earth, that is all we know of, by any authority. See also our account of this in Part One, concerning children being born in the garden.

Who knows what God's plan was? Was it for man and woman to bear children and to procreate (populate) or replenish the whole earth, outside the garden of Eden even at the time He first formed them? Paul says, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?" Again, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." Rom. 11:34; I Cor. 2:16. We think that the full account of the context in Genesis does not indicate children being born unto them, while they were in the garden. Why? Because, God did not pronounce child-bearing upon the woman until after her disobedience and "fall". Gen. 3:16, "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children..." If the woman "conceived" while in the garden, we have no account of it.

Men have theorized here, perhaps because they have stumbled at the word "replenish". What does "replenish" mean? The dictionary gives more than one usage of this word. Note: While it does mean, "to fill again after having been emptied, or diminished," it also means, "to fill completely; to stock with numbers or abundance." By the context, as stated by Moses, we believe the

latter meaning to be the one used by the Eternal, to populate, to fill the earth completely, to procreate, after leaving the garden.

Another argument for children being born in the garden, before the "fall", pointed out by commentators, is based on Gen. 3:20, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." Please remember Adam had not yet named Eve, previous to their "fall." Yet he had named the other creatures of God's creation, and had accepted the woman as "bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh." They were accepted as man and wife, but she had not yet been named, until after the curse was pronounced upon them. We understand that, when Moses said, "because she was the mother of all living," that she was "female" or mother, in a creative sense, of all living creatures, and not necessarily that she had been the mother of children, previous to the time the curse was pronounced upon her.

Going forward in Gen. 2:9-14 we have a description of the beautiful garden of "Eden" and its boundaries — a Paradise indeed. "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." This was God's covenant with man: life or death to man if he did not keep the covenant.

In Gen. 2:18-25 we have God's creation of the woman, the naming of the animals and living creatures by Adam and also how God had formed them. Let us picture this beautiful Garden of Eden. In our own imagination we can see the waters swarming with all kinds of fish, the fowls flying and swarming to and fro, the earth filled with fragrance from fruit and flowers; it must indeed have been beautiful. There God brought the woman to the man whom He had placed in the Garden, "to dress and to keep it." He had made the woman out of the "rib" of man.

We have said that this first Dispensation of the world was the Dispensation of "innocence," this is proven by the words in verse 25, "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." How different from many today. Adam and Eve were naked in their innocence and did not know it, while some today dress semi-naked and are aware of it, because of conscience, yet they persist in it.

In our next article we will discuss the "Second Dispensation," the "fall" and after the "fall." Gen. 3.

Brother William Root

NEWS ITEMS

1979 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Due to a misunderstanding by the management of Mission Springs Camp Grounds, we have been scheduled to begin General Conference on the first Saturday in June which will be on the Second day of June, 1979.

We tried to get other facilities but were unable to do so at the time we needed them. We would like to say that Mission Springs Camp Grounds are even better than in 1975.

There will be further announcements, directions and information at a later date. We give the members, friends and neighbors a warm invitation to attend Conference at Mission Springs in June of 1979.

Brother Hayes Reed
Brother Rudy Cover

NOTICE

Teachers for the Primary and Intermediate Sunday School classes may receive a booklet, "Old Testament Bible Stories" by writing to Bro. William Carpenter, R. 1, Box 242, Morenci, Michigan 49256. There is no charge.

Please notify Bro. Rudy Cover, 2307 Oakdale Road, Space 34, Modesto, California 95355 of the number of Sunday School lesson leaflets needed for the children's, young people and adult classes in each congregation.

Bible Study Board

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 3—Jesus Appears to His Disciples and Thomas. John 20:19-31.

Dec. 10—"Come and Dine." John 21:1-14.

Dec. 24—THE BIRTH OF CHRIST. Luke 2:1-20.

Dec. 31—The Ascension of Jesus. Acts 1:1-14.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) How did Jesus prove to His disciples that it was really He who was alive again? John 20:20, 27.
- (2) Jesus told His disciples, "I will make you fishers of men." Why do you think they went back to their old occupation of fishing?
- (3) Did the shepherds advertise the birth of Jesus? Luke 2:17.
- (4) How were the disciples to receive power after Jesus ascended into Heaven? Acts 1:8.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER, 1978

COVENANTS

Memory Verse: Psa. 111:9

He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

Fri. 1-Psa. 106:24-48

Sat. 2-Psa. 111:1-10

Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:6

I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the gentiles;

Sun. 3- Psa. 132:1-18

Mon. 4-Prov. 2:1-22

Tues. 5-Isa. 24:1-23

Wed. 6-Isa. 28:1-22

Thur. 7-Isa. 42:1-25

Fri. 8-Isa. 49:1-26

Sat. 9-Isa. 54:1-17

Memory Verse: Isa. 54:10

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.

Sun. 10-Isa. 55:1-13

Mon. 11-Isa. 56:1-12

Tues. 12-Isa. 57:1-21

Wed. 13-Isa. 59:1-21

Thur. 14-Isa. 61:1-11

Fri. 15-Jer. 11:1-23

Sat. 16-Jer. 14:1-22

Memory Verse: Isa. 55:3

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Sun. 17-Jer. 22:1-30

Mon. 18-Jer. 31:1-21

Tues. 19- Jer. 31:22-40

Wed. 20-Jer. 32:1-25

Thur. 21-Jer. 32:26-44

Fri. 22-Jer. 33:1-26

Sat. 23-Jer. 34:1-22

Memory Verse: Isa. 59:21

As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words that I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and forever.

Sun. 24-Jer. 50:1-20

Mon. 25-Math. 1:18-25

Tues. 26-Eze. 16:1-21

Wed. 27-Eze. 16:22-41

Thur. 28-Eze. 16:42-63

Fri. 29-Eze. 17:1-24

Sat. 30-Eze. 34:1-31

Memory Verse: Jer. 50:5

They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.

Sun. 31-Eze. 37:1-28

Memory Verse: Jer. 31:31-33

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Lester Fisher
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LVI

DECEMBER 1, 1978

NO. 23

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LOVE THYSELF LAST

Love thyself last. Look near, behold thy duty
To those who walk beside thee down life's road;
Make glad their days by little acts of beauty,
And help them bear the burden of earth's load.

Love thyself last. Look far and find the stranger
Who staggers 'neath his sin and his despair;
Go lend a hand and lead him out of danger,
To heights where he may see the world is fair.

Love thyself last. The vastnesses above thee
Are filled with spirit forces, strong and pure;
And fervently these faithful friends shall love thee,
Keep thy watch over others, and endure.

Love thyself last; And thou shalt grow in spirit
To see, to hear, to know and understand.
The message of the stars, lo, thou shalt hear it,
And all God's joys shall be at thy command.

— Anonymous

ATTENTION

A baby is not very old when he learns how to get the attention of others. Whether by crying, fussing or smiling he tries to gain an audience. This activity is often admired and considered cute by adults. Older children who "show off" to get attention are not considered quite so cute.

Unfortunately children are not the only ones who seek attention. Many adults also use their behavior as a way of gaining attention. Although their methods may be as bold as a child's usually they are more subtle. The bright-colored clothes, the unsightly hairdos, the lack of modest attire are all means used to draw attention. If a person does not use his own body to solicit attention he may use his automobile or house. By making them bright, racy or noisy, they gain attention for themselves indirectly. The lack of shame and the self-centeredness of worldly people combine to promote people's search for attention. They seek attention and notoriety as a substitute for the love and peace they do not have in the world.

Those in the world who are religiously inclined draw attention through the lack of order in their services, through their involvement in political causes and in the expensive and modernistic buildings they construct as houses of worship. They use stained glass windows, steeples and other fine appointments to draw attention to their activity.

These are the activities of the love-starved world that is looking for attention. Christians do not need the world's attention because they already have the attention of God. God from His Throne in Heaven has a view and concern for each individual. His attention

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and concern is of far greater value than the fleeting notice of this world.

When we draw attention to ourselves we are robbing God of the glory that should be His. Rather than being at the forefront, it is better for us to be retiring. Jesus warned the Pharisees of their too-well-developed desire to be commended by men. In receiving an earthly reward of man's praise they were settling for second best. In gaining man's praise they were losing Heaven's reward. Jesus told of the one who exalted himself by taking a seat of honor but who was humiliated when he had to take a lower seat. To avoid such a scene it is better to be retiring and be called to a more favored position.

Jesus left His followers an example of humility and retirement. After healing men, He often told them not to tell others who had done it. He often sought solitude. He often went to the lonely mountains or deserted areas so He might be alone with His Father and away from the world's gaze. He came to do His Father's will; He attracted attention because of His unswerving dedication to that purpose. This often brought Him into opposition with the Pharisees. They were seeking their own reward and praise so could not appreciate His desire to glorify the Father, even in retirement from notoriety.

Our prayers are often filled with an expressed desire that God would receive honor and glory from all the activities of our lives. We ask that He would do certain things for us in return for the honor and glory due Him. But when we seek attention, we are negating the expressed purpose of our prayer. We need to be careful that we do not put ourselves in the place that belongs to God.

Some might object that one who lives a separated life in this world will be drawing attention to himself. There may be a danger in this but it must be remembered that the Christian is to follow the Good Shepherd as the sheep followed their shepherd. They followed the sound of his voice, trusting him to know what is best. Jesus left an example of obedience to His Father that we would be wise to imitate. The Christian is spoken of as being peculiar. Even though our peculiarity draws attention in this world of immodesty and shamelessness, our first duty is to obey God. Men can never respect us as Christians if they can not see within us the willingness to submit our wills to His. If we seek only our attention and preferment we will do our own will; if we seek to promote His Glory we will subjugate ourselves to Him so He will be glorified. Jesus went to the cross because this would glorify God by opening a way whereby He could have an adopted family. If we will seek the background for ourselves, He will use us as a means to draw others to Him.

Are you subtly seeking attention for yourself by display of property, by self-centered activities or by shameless display of your body? Direct that attention away from yourself — give it to God who deserves it.

GO AND DO THOU LIKEWISE

"Judas went and hanged himself;... go, and do thou likewise." Ridiculous, isn't it? Yet this is about what we get when we take verses out of their setting. We make them say something they don't really say and the meaning is changed entirely. Sometimes it is a matter easily detected and remedied, but other times, it is very deceiving. When the meaning is twisted, people become confused and misled, especially when the plan of salvation is misrepresented. The result? There is a false security and when God's Word is not believed and followed, someone's soul will be lost.

"All things work together for good." So often I've heard that statement made, but is that really what the Bible says? "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28. The rest of the verse limits the scope of the first part. This is an assurance to believers only, not just to anyone. God has a definite purpose for the lives of His own. He will see to it that all things in their lives — whether fortunate or unfortunate — will work together for that good purpose. To quote only the first part of the verse is wrong, whether to a believer or an unbeliever.

"God won't lay on you any burden that is too great to bear." It is certainly true that burdens given to us by God will not overwhelm us, for Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11:30. But again, this is for God's own, not for everyone. God knows our limits and He will not allow our circumstances to destroy us spiritually if we are trusting in Him. But to an unbeliever, many burdens are too great to bear because they don't have Christ. Burdens do not always come from God. Sometimes they are our own doing and God merely allows it. Yet God often is blamed. Be careful how you console someone, lest you, in effect, blame God.

Be informed, well informed, in God's Word so when you try to help someone, you can do it wisely. So many have already been misled, and if you are going to help them, you must give them the Truth. Point them to what the Bible really says, not to your own personal notions or to what someone else says is right. Satan mis-used scriptures to try to deceive Jesus and Jesus corrected him with verses quoted in the correct context. No personal opinions can improve on the answers God has already given us.

You may want to justify something you want to do or something you have already done. But if it is not justified by God's Word, don't make yourself a loophole where there is none. It doesn't pay to deceive yourself anymore than it pays to deceive someone else. "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." II Peter 3:16. When we twist a scripture to suit our situation, we don't gain anything. We only end up destroying ourselves.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly." II Thess. 3:6a. If you stop right there, that portion of the verse gives you alot of freedom to turn your back on people just because you think they're not doing what they should. But the rest of the verse and verses 7-15 qualify and limit why and to what extent you are to withdraw. Even though you withdraw, there must still be some contact, for you are to "admonish him as a brother," not consider him as an enemy. If you simply withdraw from everyone who appears to be walking disorderly, you might have to withdraw from yourself also, so be careful.

Scriptures can be twisted for our own personal convenience. They can be twisted to make our criticism of others "legal." Whatever selfish motives people have, there are two basic reasons why they twist the scriptures: they are unlearned and/or unstable. To be unlearned is to be ignorant, of both God's Word and His Will for your own life. To be unstable is to not be established in His Word. You are unable to hold on to the truths that you learn, and become influenced by "every wind of doctrine." When you really understand God's Word and are firmly established in it, you won't want to misuse the Word in any way.

God does not favor unbelievers with understanding of His Word. Neither does He favor them with the blessings and promises which are for the believers in Christ. But He has favored those who believe with blessings, promises and understanding of His Word. We won't receive every blessing available and we can't understand everything, but we can rely on the Holy Spirit to help us. The promise is given to us in John 16:13 that He will guide us into all truth. Nothing will be left out; nothing will be deceiving. "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Eph. 5:6.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

John 2:13-25

Jesus grew up to be a man just like all boys do. It was time for the Passover and Jesus went up to Jerusalem to celebrate. Everyone who possibly could, went to this great feast. The temple of God at Jerusalem was supposed to be a Holy Place: a place to worship God. When the Jews couldn't go to Jerusalem, if they would pray with their faces toward that Holy Place, God promised to hear their prayers.

As Jesus went into the temple of God, He found people there doing something that displeased Him very much. They had animals in the temple — oxen, sheep and doves and pigeons and were selling these animals and birds to the people to sacrifice to God. In those days people sacrificed animals and birds to the Lord. This was to make them realize that they had sinned and it took the life of a lamb, ox, dove or pigeon. God required this in Moses' law. Selling animals for sacrifice was all right, but to have them in God's Holy Temple was not. Jesus was a peaceful man but this was one time when He got very angry. Do you know what He did? He made a whip out of small cords. He drove out the animals and poured out the money and turned the tables upside down. The men who were selling the animals and the money changers had to go too. Jesus said to them that sold doves, "Take these things away from here and make not my Father's house a house of merchandise." At another time He said, "You have made it a den of thieves."

The men who sold were not what they should have been. They were charging the people too much and taking advantage of them. Jesus said they were thieves.

How could one man do what Jesus did? There were many there who sold; there may have been soldiers to police the people. Jesus just took that whip and drove them out. Do you know why they had to go? Jesus is the Son of His Father in Heaven. He is God. No one can dare to resist God. When Jesus said, "Go," they went. When Jesus told them that they were thieves, He told the truth. Maybe they thought no one knew how much profit they were making — but Jesus knew. Jesus has power to do anything. He could not stand for the Holy Temple of His Father to be made into a stable for animals and a den of thieves.

We are taught in God's Word that we are the temple of God, that our bodies should be kept pure and clean so that God can live within us. Do we have good thoughts, love others and do good

deeds? Do we need to cleanse our temple of sin so that Jesus can come into our hearts?

Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him and we will come unto him and make our abode with him."

Brother Rudy Cover

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, THE BIBLE MADE PLAIN

Part 3

"The Antediluvian Dispensation." The second dispensation of the world is the Dispensation of Conscience. Adam and Eve were unconscious of sin before their disobedience. Before we discuss the Dispensation, we want to show their disobedience and its consequences, whereby God's first covenant with man was broken, by man. God never breaks a covenant with man. Gen. 3 records the "fall".

Briefly summing up the Dispensation of "Innocence" before man's "fall", we have stated that Dispensation was characterized by the "absence of sin," man lived in the "presence of God." Because of the "fall", nothing like that, "Innocence," will ever come again to the human race, until the "Tabernacle of God" is with men, Rev. 21:3. God can never deal with man again on the basis of his "innocence," until the curse of sin is removed from the earth, by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Man is now under condemnation, John 3:18. This second Dispensation of the world, extends from the "fall" of man to the "deluge" (flood), and still is in the first age of the world. We have said that this is the dispensation of "conscience"; man's conscience is the knowledge of good and evil. That conscience may be exercised, either for good or for evil. It is not a safe guide, under all circumstances, for it can be "seared."

Note: Man first became conscious, Gen. 3:7-8, "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked..." (They did not know it before their temptation and disobedience.) Gen. 2:25, when they were not ashamed. Upon their knowing and being ashamed, see what they did. "...and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." Why? Because they now had a conscience, their "eyes were opened" to that fact.

Reading from Gen. 3:8-12, "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the

garden, and I was afraid, (why afraid?), because I was naked; and I hid myself. (He was not conscious of his disobedience and sin, only his nakedness before God.) And he said, Who told thee thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Although the woman had been tempted by the serpent, she undoubtedly knew God's commandment for she repeated it to the serpent, concerning their eating of that tree. Therefore she was guilty of transgression and she must reap the penalty the same as Adam.

The man also was guilty, he knew better than to eat of that tree. Her transgression did not remove the guilt of the man nor his penalty. It was to him that God had given "His Covenant," and had told him the consequences for disobedience in keeping that Covenant. Look at those consequences, not only to them, Adam and Eve, but to their posterity, to all men. Rom. 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

How did all this come about? Gen. 3:1-6, "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

Because of the breaking of God's commandment, they were banished from the garden, with a curse placed upon them from God. "And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." Then God placed a curse upon the serpent. "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."

God then pronounced a curse upon the woman. "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy con-

ception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Also the curse upon man. "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life." Verses 16-17.

Disobedience to God brings nakedness of sin and sorrow to both man and woman. All sin must be atoned for and repented of, before man can be reconciled to God. "Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." The curse of physical death, was placed upon the human race, by man's transgression, also spiritual death. Eternal death also awaits those who refuse God's great plan of redemption, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To accept Him and His terms of grace, restores man's soul and gives him eternal life, with God in heaven, throughout all eternity. This is man's only hope.

Because of God's love for the man and the woman and the whole world, whom He has created, He offers a "Redeemer" and "Saviour," through the "seed" of the woman. Verse 15, "And I will put enmity between thee (the serpent) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them." Verse 21. Divine inspiration has revealed to us through the Bible, that without the "shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin." Hence, it took the shedding of the blood of an animal, to provide "skins" to cover man's nakedness from God.

"And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us (the Trinity,) (the serpent had told Eve a half truth only) to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever." Something had to be done. And God did it. He banished them from the garden, from "Paradise." Hence the Lord cast them forth from the garden of Eden to "till the ground from whence he was taken," as we believe, they were then to begin "to multiply and replenish the earth." "So he drove out the man; (and the woman) and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims (living creatures, living spirits), and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Man and woman, will never go back to or enter into "Paradise," except by the way of the Cross of the shed blood, of the Son of God. Their sojourn in Eden may have been very short.

We come now, to the affairs of man, as they lived in second dispensation of the world, the "Antediluvian," in the Dispensation of Conscience. They were driven out of the garden "To stock, or populate with numbers, to fill completely, to finish, to complete, to consummate," to "replenish" the earth. It has been said, that this second Dispensation of Conscience extended for 1656 years, from the "fall" to the "flood." Early in this Dispensation, we find the shedding of man's blood by man, in the account of Cain and Abel. After the death of Abel, Adam's son, whom Cain slew, we learn of another son born to Adam and Eve, whom they named "Seth."

We believe the cause for Abel's death was jealousy, a horrible sin, because Cain's offering was not respected, or acceptable, unto the Lord God, as Abel's was. "... Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offerings: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect." Gen. 4. Because of this Cain became angry and slew his brother. We see in Abel's offering, an offering of blood, by the shedding of the blood of animals, which reminds us that the "Word" says "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." Cain's offering was not of blood.

In our following articles of this work, we hope to bring a whole chapter, perhaps, on "sacrifices for sin." Let us note: The result, to Abel was, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it being dead yet speaketh." Heb. 11:4. We see by this that "faith" won God's respect for Abel; while perhaps lack of faith, as well as jealousy, was responsible for Cain's offering being rejected. In this account of Adam's family, we are made to wonder if Abel was Adam and Eve's second child, or whether there were children born unto them in-between.

In the fourth chapter of Genesis, we find that, after the murderer Cain slew his brother, that he, Cain, went out from the presence of the Lord "and builded a city", a civilization, apart from God. He went to "Nod" east of "Eden." There in Nod he "knew his wife, and she conceived and bare a son and they called his name Enoch." We do not understand that Cain got his wife in Nod, but he knew her there. Before we pass on from the account of Cain and Abel, let us pause and notice how men and women lived in the Dispensation of Conscience, their attitude toward righteousness, and their justification of faith in God. Then, remember the many years that they lived without any written law, from God, so far as the Bible has recorded for us.

Cain's lack of faith and seemingly unrighteousness, so to speak, should be taken into account at this point. Note: Gen. 4:9-14, "And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" We believe that Cain had a conscience, but that he was here exercising it for evil. Surely it was the spirit of the "Old Serpent," which prompted Cain to tell this lie also. He lied, not to man, but to God. He did know what had happened to his brother.

Note the following verses, "And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." God asked Cain the same question He asked Eve, when her sin was made naked before Him, "What hast thou done?" "And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth."

Now note: Cain had a consciousness, of his sin and the penalty (curse), which God placed upon him. A Dispensation of Conscience is revealed here. Verses 13-14, "And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me." With all of Cain's consciousness of suffering placed upon him, here on earth, he also was conscious of his banishment from the face of God.

At this point in our study of this Dispensation, concerning those of the human race, those who find faith in God and those who did not, those who were counted righteous and those who were not, we think it timely, to take account of the instruction given to us by the Apostle Paul in the book of Romans. First, Rom. 5:12-14, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.)" We remember there is no account of any written law until the law given to Moses. God simply commanded; His Word was Law. Those who obeyed and had faith were counted righteous.

Note also verses 20 and 21 before we study verse 14 of this chapter. "Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Considering these verses, now note verse 14, "Nevertheless death

reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression (through disobedience), who is the figure of him that was to come (that is Christ)."

Now turn to Rom. 4:14-16, "For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all."

In summing up this article, concerning the "Antediluvian" dispensation, we offer for the reader's consideration, some accounts of the Apostle Peter. The apostle writing to the Church, says to us: I Pet. 4:5-6, "Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." Also, Peter says, in speaking of Christ, I Pet. 3:18-20, "... being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah (this Antediluvian Dispensation), while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." God has had His plan for saving souls in all dispensations of the world.

Brother William Root

TACT

John Wesley was known far and wide to be much opposed to the wearing of jewelry. On a certain occasion a good sister took hold of a lady's hand, containing a number of rings, held it close to the eyes of the devout preacher and said: "Bro. Wesley, what do you think of that?" Wesley pretended not to see the costly, diamond-set rings, but remarked, "That is a very pretty hand." The compliment passed upon the beautiful hand had its effect, for the lady went to one side, removed her rings, and reappeared with hands that no one need to be ashamed of. Mr. Wesley knew how to reach the lady's self-respect. And that is just what some people need to learn today. Let them learn how the wrong-doings of persons may be pointed out in such a manner as to bring about the necessary reformation, and the savings of the soul will have been accomplished.

— Selected from Our Saturday Night

I TRIED SO HARD TO PRAY

This morn I early rose
To start my busy day,
I tried to come into God's Presence
I tried so hard to pray.
The words just would not come
And something seemed to say,
Just quiet down — sit and wait
And a few minutes, meditate.
Why doesn't God help me
Doesn't He hear what I have to say.
I bowed my head and waited
And heavier felt my load.
I cried, "Oh God, I know you are my Father
And I praise your Holy name.
I want your blessing for this day.
I want to tell you how much I love you
And so want Your Will to obey."
Softly I heard Him answer this,
"My child — whosoever calls me, Father
And praises My Holy Name,
I bend my ear to what he has to say.
And if it is in my plan for him,
In his work or even play
Then to him I give my blessing
I'll even walk and talk with him
And guide him thru the day.
Peace be upon you, my child
Let others see Christ in you this day
For thru your smile, your words, your hands,
Are only how my work on earth is done.
And only thru the willing and the humble
Will many souls to Heaven be won.
You must be a witness
To others in my name
And to them I'll also listen
And for my own in Heaven will claim."

Ruth Spotts
Brethren Home, 750 Chesnut St.
Greenville, Ohio 45331

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Rudy Cover is 2034 Roble Avenue, Modesto, California 95351. His telephone number is 209-521-2074.

The new address of Elder Laverne Keeney is R. 1, Box 233A, Lititz, Pennsylvania 17543. His new telephone number is 717-738-1566.

RENEWAL NOTICES

Renewal notices are being sent out. Those whose subscription to the Bible Monitor are in arrears will be receiving a notice. If you do not receive a notice you may assume your subscription is current. If you do receive a notice your prompt reply will be appreciated.

Editor

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation enjoyed a two week Revival in August with Elder Allen Eberly as evangelist. Although there were no new members added, his messages were an encouragement to those who attended. We were happy to have Sister Martha with us also.

On October 8, we had a Harvest Meeting with Elder Harley Flory giving the Harvest sermon.

We were glad for the visitors from other places during these meetings and invite any to come at any time to worship with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation enjoyed another revival meeting from August 27 through September 10 with Elder Edward Johnson as the evangelist. The meetings were well attended throughout the two weeks. He gave us Spirit filled messages.

We were made to rejoice when two young souls gave their hearts to the Lord. They were baptized Sunday, September 24.

We were glad to have Sister Johnson with us the two weeks, and also the Brothers and Sisters from a distance who helped to make our meetings a success.

We were privileged to have another Love Feast on Saturday, October 14 with a good attendance. Ministers present: Elders David Ebling, Ray Shank, Frank Shaffer; ministers: Virgil Leatherman, Eldon Mallow, David Kegerreis and Kenneth Wolfe and our Elder James Kegerreis.

In the evening there were about one hundred thirty-five who surrounded the Lord's Table with Bro. Virgil Leatherman officiating. Bro. Eldon Mallow stayed and preached on Sunday morning.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The week of meetings, which we had hopefully looked forward to, has come to an end. We were not disappointed as the services were well attended and Bro. Allen Eberly gave us inspiring, heart-searching messages. Now the responsibility rests with us to be better, witnessing Christians, experiencing deeper faith in our Lord. May we all live more dedicated lives for the cause of Christ.

Through the summer there have been five young people who accepted Christ and were baptized. There are others who need the Lord.

Our Love Feast services were made more meaningful with the help of other ministers from the District. We appreciated their presence and help. May we face a new year with more courage to defeat the devil.

Sister Ethel Whitmer, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

We have enjoyed another season of refreshing here at West Fulton. Brother Fred Pifer of the Dallas Center Congregation came into our midst and held a two-weeks revival meeting from September 18 to October 1. He preached the Word with Power. At the close of our meetings a young girl was baptized for which we are happy. We trust that she will remain faithful. Our meetings were very well attended.

We were glad to have Sister Pifer and Rebecca here also. We pray God's blessings upon them, and on Brother Fred as he continues laboring in God's vineyard. Pray for the work at this place.

Sister Leola Beck, Cor.



INVESTMENT

Time with God
Is time not spent,
But giving back
What He has lent.

In dividend
A thousand-fold,
Like worthless pebbles
Changed to gold.

— Ruth Gibbs Zwall
Selected Sis. Mildred Skiles

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BIBLE MONITOR

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OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
And drive away the shades of night,
And pierce the clouds and bring us light!

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

— Selected

THE FORGOTTEN COMMANDMENT

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now it thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law." James 2:10-11.

The laws and commands of God are a complete unit. To break one command makes the transgressor guilty of breaking all. The unit is no longer whole if one part is broken. James uses the example of one who though not guilty of adultery was guilty of murder. This person was as guilty of breaking the law as if he had committed adultery. Both murder and adultery are forbidden, so to be guilty of either is to be guilty of both.

Among the commands of God is another prohibition, which is an oft-forgotten commandment. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's." Ex. 20:17. Paul repeats this command for Christians in Rom. 13:9, "Thou shalt not covet." Not a one who reads this would be guilty of murder, adultery or stealing but how many have forgotten the last commandment, "Thou shalt not covet."?

The destructive effect of murder, adultery or robbery is quite evident. Covetousness is no less destructive although its effect may not be so readily apparent. The peace of many homes, businesses and Churches has been disturbed because one member coveted what belonged to another, whether it was property, money, title or position. This destructive effect on others is not nearly as great as the effect upon the one who covets. His

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peace is destroyed and his priorities become distorted. While he pursues his own selfish goals, he becomes utterly miserable. Even if he gains his goal, he is dissatisfied for he desires even more.

Covetousness is perhaps most openly evident this season of the year. The catalogs, window displays and commercials are all designed to heighten people's covetousness. The question of the hour is, "What do you want for Christmas?" The season is devoted not to Christ but to self. Jesus who gave His all will receive very little although His name will be invoked many times during this season.

Covetousness is not limited to a few weeks a year but is present year-around. It is often very subtle. Unless we are on guard it may overtake us. Coveting may not always be for large sums of money, or a high position. A book, a family heirloom or a desire for attention may be desired. Ill-will grows up between those who covet the same thing.

Covetousness is a form of selfishness. It is self-centered rather than seeking the good of others. James says the prayer of the covetous goes unanswered because they plan to consume it on their lusts. (James 4:3) Although men lust and covet after the things of the world, they very often fail to acquire their desires. If they are fortunate enough to acquire their coveted goal, they can only enjoy it for a few years on this earth. It is a deathless axiom of God that they will not be able to carry it out of this world. Death's doorway is so narrow that it treats alike the rich and the poor, the famous and the unknown. Since mortality is the lot of all, it makes sense that if men covet, they should covet a heavenly treasure that will last beyond the few years allotted to men.

If, in this life, we are blessed with an abundance of this world's goods how will we use it? Will we feel that because we have been greatly blessed that we can use it for ourselves? Will we use it so we can gather even more materially? What is the purpose of the prosperity that God has blessed us with?

The Christian's answer to this question lies in the gift of mercy he has received from God. Spiritual and physical blessings come from God, undeserved. The blessings received by the Christian should in turn be given to those in need. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them, who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10. John states a very serious implication concerning those who fail to do this. "But whosoever hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowls of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" I John 3:17. When covetousness is so

strong that compassion is overcome, the love of God is foreign to that life.

In this season when covetousness is so greatly promoted, break the pattern. Use your means to help others instead of desiring more and more for yourself.

THEY CALLED HIM JESUS

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." Matt. 1:24-25.

"And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb." Luke 2:21.

God instructed through the angel that the son to be born of Mary was to be called Jesus. The name "Jesus" means "Saviour," which He truly is. He came to this earth to "save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21), not just to live on earth for a few years. What is a Saviour? One who saves, preserves, or delivers from destruction or danger, the dictionary says. Jesus can save, He can preserve or keep us, He can deliver us from destruction. No one else can do that.

Jesus was born at a specific time for a specific purpose. His life on this earth served to fulfill that purpose - to provide a way whereby all who so desire can be saved. Because of man's need of a Saviour, Jesus took on human form (see Phil. 2:7) so He could give His life to save us. He experienced our emotions and temptations, yet without sin. (Heb. 4:15) No one else could have lived without sin, therefore no one else could have saved us. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

Surely an event as important as this, the birth of our Saviour, was a very newsworthy event. But was it? How much actual attention was focused on this event? The Jews were looking for a king, and kings are not born in stables, much less laid in a manger. Many people now would regard it as quaint, to others it would be repulsive; by others, it would be regarded as an unfortunate series of events. In reality, the entire event was planned by God. It didn't just happen. Jesus' birth is not just a nice, little story for children. Heaven rejoiced because of what His birth meant for mankind; we should rejoice likewise.

Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth while awaiting the birth of her

first child. Their lives probably were quite ordinary, except for the message from the angel. What did all those strange words mean? Mary had asked how it would all come about and she accepted the angel's explanation, but neither she nor Joseph understood what was happening. Their actions later on proved this. The Bible says that Mary pondered all these things in her heart, but is it any wonder that she couldn't figure it all out? Surely we would have been also.

Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem of Judea, but Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. Do you suppose that they knew they were in the wrong town? Besides, there was another Bethlehem (of Zebulun) just a few miles from Nazareth; wouldn't that do? After all, what woman in her right mind would want to leave familiar surroundings, travel sixty or seventy miles to a strange town so her child would be born there? Would God ask this of her?

Whatever the thoughts of Joseph and Mary, their plans were about to change. Caesar Augustus decided that it was time to collect taxes. He set up a procedure which surely imposed a hardship on many people, because all had to go to their own city. Think of all the journeys being made, people traveling in every direction just to pay their taxes! For Joseph and Mary, this meant going to Bethlehem of Judea, a small town southeast of Jerusalem. Surely it must have been a difficult journey for Mary, but it had to be.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:6-7. Coincidence, wasn't it, that Augustus decided to tax the people, causing Joseph and Mary to arrive in Bethlehem just in time for Jesus to be born there? Certainly not! Only God could plan and direct so everything was perfectly timed. Only He could put it into the heart of a Roman ruler, who was far removed from the scene, to send out a decree which resulted in a literal fulfillment of prophecy concerning Jesus' birth.

Joseph and Mary called Him "Jesus," as the angel instructed. Many others have called Him Jesus, without realizing who He is and what His name really means. What does Jesus mean to you? Is "Jesus" just another name; is He just another person? Or do you think of Him as He truly is — Jesus, our Saviour — the only Saviour we will ever have? Without Jesus, we have nothing and nothing is available to us. With Jesus, we have access to everything God wants to give us. Jesus was born so He could die for us. He died for us so that we might live. He wants to be your Saviour; will you accept Him?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THEY HEARD THE ANGELS

LUKE 2:8-20

Have you ever seen an angel? Have you ever heard an angel speak? A long time ago there was a little baby born in the town of Bethlehem and His name was Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God; He came from Heaven.

Shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem taking care of their sheep. In the Spring, when the grass was green and the weather got warm, the shepherds took their flocks out in the hills to pasture. At night the sheep laid down to rest with their lambs. Wild animals were in the land and the shepherds and their dogs had to be continually watchful so that none of the lambs were lost.

As the shepherds were resting from their day's work and watching over the flocks one night, an angel of the Lord appeared unto them. Everything suddenly was light because the angel came from God and the glory of the Lord shone round about them. The shepherds had never seen anything like it and they were afraid. The angel said unto them, "Fear not: for I bring you good tidings of joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

As soon as the angels told them about Jesus and where He was born, the shepherds had another surprise. Suddenly there was with the angel, many angels. I don't know how many there were. I suppose there were thousands because the Bible says there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Would you like to have seen all those beautiful angels and heard them speak? I'm sure I would. The Bible doesn't say they were singing but I believe those shepherds heard the most beautiful song that they had ever heard in their lives.

The angels soon disappeared and went away into Heaven. Then the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." So they left their sheep and hurried to Bethlehem and went to the inn that was filled to overflowing. Out back of the inn was a place where the animals were kept and here the shepherds found the Baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. A manger is a trough or a place where the feed is placed for the cows or horses to eat.

After the shepherds had seen the Baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph, what do you think they did? They did like you or I would

have done; they told everybody they met about what the angel told them and how they had seen Jesus, who was to be the Saviour of the world. They couldn't keep still. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen as it was told unto them.

There wasn't room in the inn for Jesus but there was room in the hearts of the shepherds for Him. They rejoiced because they were looking for their Saviour to come. Are you looking for Jesus to come? Sometime Jesus will come again. If you are living for Him, you will get to go to Heaven and see the angels, too. There are many angels in Heaven. The Bible says that around the throne of God are ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of angels.

Brother Rudy Cover

GOD WILL HELP US

One sees the roses blooming,
Another sees the thorn.
One sees the light of darkness,
Another sees the morn.
While one may see the beauty
Of the freshly fallen snow,
Another dreads the winter,
And the chilly winds that blow.
And so it is, from day to day,
Some have the eyes to see
Some beauty here, some beauty there,
Wherever they may be.
And others see the darker side
Of every situation.
God help us all to see the good
And have appreciation!

— J. S. Workman

Do we appreciate and enjoy the things of life? Appreciation means stretching our rare moments of awe and reverence from an occasional encounter with exciting beauty to an awareness of all minor beauties the Almighty has so lavishly squandered at our feet.

Appreciation is letting the mind review what we have already rather than what we lack.

Appreciation is being so thankful for the good that has come our way that we want to pass it on to others. It is thanking God by helping our fellowmen. If we have strength, appreciation means helping the weak. If we have faith in God, it means encouraging the

discouraged and cheering the hopeless. If we have enough food and clothing to keep us alive, it means giving to the poor and those in need.

Sit down and think with me today about all of God's goodness toward us. When you arose from your bed this morning, were your first thoughts about God, how He kept you safe during the night and allowed you to arise at the dawn of another day to see all of His wonders?

To me, God's creation was a wonderful thing in the beginning of time. A beautiful garden He must have made!

We have entered fall weather with the cool breezes and colored leaves upon the trees. Do we appreciate the time we have to prepare our homes and food storages for winter? Our time should never be wasted. Don't sit and do nothing as there is always work to be done even if it is only a kind act or deed to a neighbor or friend.

Do we appreciate the winter months that are soon before us? Or do we grumble and growl at the big snow storms. Winter is a beautiful scene and makes us appreciate being inside by the old wood stove, when we get things caught up before we have to prepare things outside in the Spring.

Do we appreciate the beautiful Spring, God sends, when the good smell of earth comes to life again and the little creeks ripple along full of good snow water from the winter months? Does it make us happy to see the beautiful, early flowers and to hear the spring birds singing their songs? Or do we complain of all the garden work and the (too many) spring rains that water the earth? A true Christian shouldn't grumble or complain when it comes to God's works, but should be like the Psalmist David when he said, "Thou hast put gladness in my heart..." Psalms 4:7.

Do we appreciate the freedom we still have of worshipping God, being unharmed or molested? The Bible should be the most appreciated prize of all. We have the Bible at our fingertips to read everyday. Some do not have this privilege as we do and must worship God in secret. Did you ever think that someday this privilege might be taken from us?

Do we appreciate our children? Are we happy when God gives us another child to love, to cherish and to teach? Or do we dread another "kid" to clothe and care for? We must always show love and affection for our little ones from the time they are born into this world so they will in turn have love and concern for us when they grow older.

A beautiful butterfly, noisy locust, a playful kitten, air to breathe, a frosty morning, food to eat; surely it is a wonderful time in which we are living! So use the time now, by tomorrow, time might be gone forever.

Be thankful you have eyes to see, ears to hear, a nose to smell, hands to work with and feet to carry you onward and upward in this day of life.

Here is a poem that I love to think about when I hear a person complain of the seasons, the time of life or the task of day.

THE WORLD IS MINE

Today upon a bus I saw,
A girl with golden hair.
She seemed so gay, I envied her
And wished I were half so fair.
I watched her as she rose to leave,
And saw her hobble down the isle.
She had one leg and wore a crutch,
But as she passed, a smile.
Oh God forgive me when I whine,
I have two legs and the world is mine.

Later on I bought some sweets,
The boy who sold them had such charm.
I thought I'd stop and talk awhile.
If I were late it would do no harm.
And as we talked he said, "Thank you
Sir, you've really been so kind
It's nice to talk to folks like you
Because you see, I'm blind."
Oh God forgive me when I whine,
I have two eyes and the world is mine.

Later walking down the street,
I met a boy with eyes so blue
But he stood and watched the others play,
It seemed he knew not what to do.
I paused and then I said,
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"
But he looked straight ahead without a word,
And then I knew he couldn't hear.
Oh God forgive me when I whine,
I have two ears and the world is mine.

Two legs to take me where I go,
Two eyes to see the sunsets glow.
Two ears to hear all that I should know,
Oh God forgive me when I whine,
Why, I'm blessed indeed for this world is mine.

— Selected

Be thankful and appreciate the life and breath God gave you today and also the joys of living another day to behold the beauty of God!

In Christian Love,
Sister Shirley Frick

THE STRANGEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED

He never enjoyed a Christmas - but if He had not lived, there never would have been a Christmas for anyone.

He never had a business - yet the best business of the year comes at Christmas time because of Him.

He never had a toy - but He has caused more toys to be made, which have given more joy to more children and more employment to more people than any other man who ever lived.

He rarely, if ever, received any gifts - but every year for more than nineteen hundred years He has inspired the giving of more gifts than any other person in history.

When He was a mere infant, his parents had to flee to a foreign country to save His life - but He has given more joy to millions of children than any other man in all the world.

He was often hungry and never had bountiful food - but at Christmas and Easter, He brings more sweets into more homes and more bounty on more tables, more laughter and song everywhere; than any other man of all time.

He never went to school, so far as we know - but He has caused thousands of schools, colleges and universities to be erected all over the world.

He did not leave a single written line, and all that is known of what He said could be put on one page of a metropolitan newspaper - but He has shed more light on things human and divine than all the educators and philosophers of ancient and modern times.

He never wrote a book or saw a library - but He has caused more books to be written and read than any other man in the world's history.

He had no dictionary - but He has given birth to more good words and cast the shadow of reproach on more bad ones than any other man.

He knew nothing of architecture - but He has inspired the conception and erection of the most magnificent cathedrals and other beautiful buildings on the face of the earth.

He did not paint - yet he has awakened the genius in the world's

greatest artists and has inspired more works of art in more famous galleries than any other man.

He knew nothing of medicine - yet He healed the sick of every type of disease, caused the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak; and even brought the dead to life.

He never heard an oratorio or a grand opera - but He has prompted the writing of the greatest hymns, songs of joy and oratorios, that have ever been heard.

He never owned any of this world's goods - but wealth has multiplied wherever He has become known.

He was never more than a hundred miles from His birthplace after His infancy - but His fame for nearly twenty centuries has spread into every part of the world.

He was offered the kingdom of the whole world - but He preferred the humble life and a spiritual kingdom.

His own nation rejected Him and crucified Him - but people of every nation on earth have praised and acclaimed Him.

He was the perfect pacifist - yet by the use of His one and only weapon - Love - He has overthrown some of the greatest empires.

He was born in a manger and put to death as a malefactor - yet, after more than nineteen hundred years, He lives as no other man.

He was a Jew - but He is the only universal and international personality who has risen above all national and geographical lines and every racial instinct.

Great teachers, religious and otherwise, speak only for their day and generation - but He spoke for all times, conditions and peoples; and His truth anticipated every change the world has ever known.

Conquerors come, rise and fall, live and die - but this man has lived on through the centuries, and every year increasing millions sing the triumph of His life and teachings.

Thousands of new laws are made and many old laws are revised every year - but the eternal truth He taught, like His unchanging character, is the same "yesterday, today and forever."

Great men live and die, and their influence becomes less and less as the years go by - but this strange man continues to live and influence more lives in a larger way with every passing year.

His one brief sermon, delivered in the open air - has become the Magna Charta and supreme law for all people for all the ages.

Every other man has had his faults - but the judge who condemned Him to an ignominious death publicly declared, "I find no fault in this man."

He never headed a government or had any armed forces at His

command - yet countless millions bow at every mention of His name and sing anthems of praise and thanksgiving for His life.

He associated freely with publicans and sinners and His personal appearance was neither striking nor unusual - yet the world would give millions of dollars for an actual picture of this humble carpenter's son, who devoted Himself to unselfish ministry for others.

His life on this earth covered only thirty-three years - from Bethlehem to Calvary - but the story of that life has been translated into every language, and is acknowledged as the world's "best seller."

Neither capital nor labor, howsoever wide apart in other matters, can disagree in any wise with this humble man - the friend of all.

He is universally recognized as the final arbiter in theology and Sociology, in divine demands and in human rights.

If the peoples and nations of the world would only follow His teachings, injustice, poverty and fear would be banished; and war would be no more.

He is —

Jesus Christ —

The Son of God —

The one and only hope of the world —

Selected by Sister Ruth Drake

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, THE BIBLE MADE PLAIN

Part 4

In our last article, part 3, we were discussing the second Dispensation, the Antediluvian. Let us proceed with this Dispensation of conscience. From the time of Cain until Noah, men multiplied rapidly, so far as we know. In the "line" of Cain we see an origin, or likenes, to all human religions. Cain builded a city, and named it after his son, Enoch. We by-pass here the genealogy between Adam and Noah.

When we take into consideration that men in those days lived for nearly one thousand years, their accumulation of knowledge, experience and skill must have been great. Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years and he died. The outcome of Cain's godless civilization is recorded in Gen. 6:1-2, "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." These verses are speaking of men on the earth. They were

multiplying with women, on the face of the earth, daughters of men bearing children of the sons of God, of Adam and Eve's procreation.

Let us note: These "sons of God." Who were they? God gave Eve power to conceive and bring children into the world, as well as her descendants. Hence, men are God's sons in a creative sense, born in nature and in likeness to the "image of God." Gen. 5:3, "And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image (which was the image of God also); and called his name Seth." In the genealogy of Seth's lineage, we have some righteous men, such as Enoch and Noah, who lived in the Dispensation of conscience. "And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters." Gen. 5:22. Enoch lived by faith. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Heb. 11:5.

Gen. 6:3-4, "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days (these sons of God); and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bear children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." At this point in our study we point out what we believe to be an erroneous theory advanced by commentators concerning the identity of these "sons of God." Men tell us these were "living spirits" or "angels." We believe these "sons of God" were natural-born sons of God, in God's likeness, and not as "spiritual sons" reborn, "born again sons". Such as recorded in John 1:12; Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 4:6, and I John 3:1-2. These natural sons of God are pointed out again in the book of Job. We believe these "sons" here in Genesis were sons of God, who were men in the flesh, multiplying with women, daughters born of men in God's own likeness. Whether they were sons of Seth, and daughters of Cain, we know not. Although these sons were "sons of God," we think they were also sons of men.

Note: Job 1:6, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them." This verse does not reveal what time, what day these "sons of God" came - nor where they came from, whether the Lord came down to earth, or whether they went up to heaven, whether they were in the spirit, or in the flesh. It only tells what happened and who was among them. It was Satan and Satan is a spirit. We know much about him, but we know nothing about who those "sons of God" were, except as stated above. We dare not theorize. Who knows?

We know this, from verse 7, the Lord's question to Satan, "Whence comest thou?" ...and by Satan's answer that, he, Satan, had been "going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." There is nothing in this passage of Scripture to prove that these "sons" of God were angels. Job 2:1-2 is a parallel of this account and means the same. This still remains a mystery. "Who knows?"

Also note: Job 38:1-7, "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" In these verses God challenged Job to answer to His almighty works and convinced Job of his own ignorance. Job could not answer these questions.

Hear his answer. "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee." Job 42:2. In all these seven verses in the 38th chapter, verses 3 through 7, the Lord asked Job six questions, which Job could not answer. Note especially verse 7, could Job answer who the "morning stars and the sons of God, who sang for joy" were? We answer, "no". Further, angels do not cohabit. Jesus said that the children of this world "marry and are given in marriage," but not so in the "resurrection world", those who will live and reign with Him in His "Millennium," Luke 20:34-36. He likens those to the angels. He says, "for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." Also, "neither can they die any more." We understand this to mean that the angels are sexless, and therefore do not cohabit, either with themselves, nor with human beings. So, we say, Christ teaches, by these words, that angels do not multiply by procreation. Hence, man's theory, on our passage in Genesis, falls to the ground.

— To be continued
Brother William Root



Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new. — Thoreau.

NEWS ITEMS

REMINDER

The Editor needs to be informed of any changes needed to be made in the February 1st, 1979 issue of Bible Monitor. Especially needed are the telephone numbers of several of the Brethren listed in the Ministerial List. This information should be in the Editor's hands by January 1. Thank you.

APPRECIATION

This issue marks the end of another year. The Bible Monitor could never have made its appearance twenty-four times this past year without her readers. The Editor wishes to thank each one for the support given and prayers offered in his behalf. A hearty thank you goes to those who contributed articles. To each one of you goes the honor for the continued appearance of the Bible Monitor. Your financial contributions, articles, prayers and encouragement have all had a part in the work. Thank you and may God bless each one abundantly during the new year.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY

Jan. 7 — "Let us Reason Together." Isaiah 1:1-20.

Jan. 14 — Zion, the Mountain of the Lord's House. Isaiah 1:21-31; 2:1-5.

Jan. 21 — Judgement for Idolatry. Isaiah 2:6-22; 3:1-24.

Jan. 28 — Cleansing of Zion; the Vineyard and Wild Grapes. Isaiah 3:25, 26; 4:1-6; 5:1-7.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) Why is it necessary to reason together with the Lord? Isaiah 1:18.
- (2) What time is Isaiah talking about in Isaiah 2:3, 4?
- (3) What does materialism (coveting material things) do to the individual? Isaiah 2:8; Colossians 3:5.
- (4) Isaiah told much about the vineyard of the Lord. What is it? Isaiah 5:7.



Change of fashions is the tax which industry imposes on the vanity of the rich. — Chamfort.

Fashion is the science of appearances, and it inspires one with the desire to seem rather than to be. — E. H. Chapin.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JANUARY, 1979

COVENANTS

Memory Verse: Mal. 3:1

Behold, I will send my messenger,
and he shall prepare the way
before me: and the Lord, whom
ye seek, shall suddenly come to
his temple, even the messenger
of the covenant, whom ye delight
in: behold, he shall come, saith
the Lord of hosts.

Mon. 1—Dan. 9:1-15

Tues. 2—Dan. 9:16-27

Wed. 3—Dan. 11:1-19

Thur. 4—Dan. 11:20-45

Fri. 5—Hos. 2:1-23

Sat. 6—Hos. 6:1-11

Memory Verse: Acts 3:25

Ye are the children of the
prophets, and of the covenant
which God made with our fathers,
saying unto Abraham, and in thy
seed shall all the kindreds of the
earth be blessed.

Sun. 7—Hos. 8:1-14

Mon. 8—Hos. 10:1-15

Tues. 9—Hos. 12:1-14

Wed. 10—Amos 1:1-15

Thur. 11—Hag. 2:1-23

Fri. 12—Zec. 9:1-17

Sat. 13—Zec. 11:1-17

Memory Verse: Rom. 9:4

Who are Israelites; to whom per-
taineth the adoption, and the
glory, and the covenants, and the
giving of the law, and the service
of God, and the promises;

Sun. 14—Mal. 2:1-17

Mon. 15—Mal. 3:1-18

Tues. 16—Matt. 26:1-25

Wed. 17—Luke 1:59-80

Thur. 18—Luke 22:1-23

Fri. 19—Acts 3:1-26

Sat. 20—Acts 7:1-25

Memory Verse: Gal. 3:17

And this I say, that the covenant,
that was confirmed before of God
in Christ, the law, which was four
hundred and thirty years after,
cannot disannul, that it should
make the promise of none effect.

Sun. 21—Rom. 1:14-32

Mon. 22—Rom. 9:1-33

Tues. 23—Rom. 11:1-36

Wed. 24—Gal. 3:1-29

Thur. 25—Gal. 4:1-31

Fri. 26—Eph. 2:1-22

Sat. 27—Heb. 8:1-13

Memory Verse: Eph. 2:12

That at that time ye were without
Christ, being aliens from the
commonwealth of Israel, and
strangers from the covenants of
promise, having no hope, and
without God in the world:

Sun. 28—Heb. 9:1-28

Mon. 29—Heb. 10:1-39

Tues. 30—Heb. 12:1-29

Wed. 31—Heb. 13:1-25

Memory Verses: Heb. 8:6

But now hath he obtained a more
excellent ministry, by how much
also he is the mediator of a better
covenant, which was established
upon better promises.

Heb. 10:29

Of how much sorer punishment,
suppose ye, shall he be thought
worthy, who hath trodden under
foot the Son of God, and hath
counted the blood of the cove-
nant, wherewith he was sancti-
fied, an unholy thing, and hath
done despite unto the Spirit of
grace?